

THE
MOURNING BRIDE.

A

1489. pp. 14.

TRAGEDY,

WRITTEN BY

MR. CONGREGUE.

Marked with the Variations in the

MANAGERS BOOKS,

AT THE

Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane.

— NEQUE ENIM LEX ÆQUIOR ULLA,
QUAM NECIS ARTIFICES ARTE PERIRE SUA.

OVID. de Arte Am.



L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR T. AND W. LOWNDES, S. BLADON,
AND W. NICOLL.

M.DCC.LXXXIII.



* * The Reader is desired to observe, that the Passages omitted in the Representation at the Theatres are here preserved, and marked with inverted Commas; as in Line 15 to 17 in Page 10.—*Also*, The Additions made at the Theatres are distinguished by *Italics* between inverted Commas; as in Line 3, Page 28.

T O

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

T H E

P R I N C E S S.

M A D A M,

THAT high station, which by your birth you hold above the people, exacts from every one, as a duty, whatever honours they are capable of paying to your Royal Highness: but that more exalted place, to which your virtues have raised you, above the rest of princes, makes the tribute of our admiration and praise rather a choice, more immediately preventing that duty.

The public gratitude is ever founded on a public benefit; and what is universally blessed, is always an universal blessing. Thus from yourself we derive the offerings which we bring; and that incense which arises to your name, only returns to its original, and but naturally requires the parent of its being.

From hence it is that this poem, constituted on a moral, whose end it is to recommend and to encourage virtue, of consequence has recourse to your Royal Highness's patronage; aspiring to cast itself beneath your feet, and declining approbation, 'till you shall condescend to own it, and vouchsafe to shine upon it as on a creature of your influence.

iv THE EPISTLE DEDICATORY.

It is from the example of princes that virtue becomes a fashion in the people ; for even they who are averſe to inſtruction, will yet be fond of imitation.

But there are multitudes who never can have means nor opportunities of ſo near an acceſs, as to partake of the benefit of ſuch examples. And to theſe, Tragedy, which diſtinguiſhes itſelf from the vulgar poetry by the dignity of its characters, may be of uſe and information. For they who are at that diſtance from original greatneſs, as to be deprived of the happineſs of contemplating the perfections and real excellencies of your Royal Highneſs's perſon in your court, may yet behold ſome ſmall ſketches and images of the virtues of your mind, abſtracted, and repreſented on the theatre.

Thus poets are inſtructed, and inſtruct ; not alone by precepts which perſuade, but alſo by examples which illuſtrate. Thus is delight interwoven with inſtruction ; when not only virtue is preſcribed, but alſo repreſented.

But if we are delighted with the livelineſs of a feigned repreſentation of great and good perſons and their actions, how muſt we be charmed with beholding the perſons themſelves ? If one or two excellling qualities barely touched in the ſingle action and ſmall compaſs of a play, can warm an audience with a concern and regard even for the ſeeming ſucceſs and proſperity of the actor ; with what zeal muſt the hearts of all be filled for the continued and increaſing happineſs of thoſe who are the true and living inſtances of elevated and perſiſting virtue ? Even the vicious themſelves muſt have a ſecret veneration for thoſe peculiar graces and endowments, which are daily ſo eminently conſpicuous in your Royal Highneſs ; and though repining, feel a pleaſure, which, in ſpite of envy, they per-force approve.

THE EPISTLE DEDICATORY. v

If in this piece, humbly offered to your Royal Highness, there shall appear the resemblance of any of those many excellencies which you so promiscuously possess, to be drawn so as to merit your least approbation, it has the end and accomplishment of its design. And however imperfect it may be in the whole, through the inexperience or incapacity of the author, yet if there is so much as to convince your Royal Highness, that a play may be with industry so disposed (in spite of the licentious practice of the modern theatre) as to become sometimes an innocent, and not unprofitable entertainment; it will abundantly gratify the ambition, and recompense the endeavours of,

Your Royal Highness's

most obedient and

most humbly devoted servant,

WILLIAM CONGREVE.

PROLOGUE.

*THE time has been when plays were not so plenty,
And a less number now would well content ye.*

*New plays did then like almanacks appear;
And one was thought sufficient for a year:
Though they are more like almanacks of late;
For in one year, I think they're out of date.
Nor were they without reason join'd together:
For just as one prognosticates the weather,
How plentiful the crops, or scarce the grain,
What peals of thunder, and what showers of rain;
So t'other can foretel, by certain rules,
What crouds of coxcombs, or what floods of fools.
In such like prophecies were Poets skill'd,
Which now they find in their own tribe fulfill'd:
The dearth of wit, they did so long presage,
Is fallen on us, and almost starves the stage.
Were you not griev'd, as often as you saw
Poor actors thresh such empty sheafs of straw?
Toiling and lab'ring, at their lungs expence,
To start a jest, or force a little sense?
Hard fate for us, still harder in th' event;
Our Authors sin, but we alone repent.
Still they proceed, and, at our charge, write worse:
'Twere some amends if they could reimburse;
But there's the Devil, tho' their cause is lost,
There's no recovering damages or cost.*

*Good wits forgive this liberty we take,
Since custom gives the losers leave to speak.*

But

But if, provok'd, your dreadful wrath remains,
 Take your revenge upon the coming scenes :
 For that damn'd Poet's spar'd, who damns a brother,
 As one thief 'scapes that executes another.
 Thus far alone does to the wits relate ;
 But from the rest we hope a better fate.
 To please and move has been our Poet's theme,
 Art may direct, but Nature is his aim,
 And Nature miss'd, in vain he boasts his art,
 For only Nature can affect the heart.
 Then freely judge the scenes that shall ensue ;
 But as with freedom, judge with candour too.
 He wou'd not lose, thro' prejudice, his cause :
 Nor wou'd obtain precariously applause.
 Impartial censure he requests from all,
 Prepar'd, by just decrees, to stand or fall.

Dramatis Personæ, 1783.

At Drury Lane.

At Covent Garden.

M E N.

Manuel, the King of Granada —
 Gonzalez, his favourite —
 Garcia, son to Gonzalez —
 Perez, Captain of the guards —
 Alonzo, an officer, creature to Gonzalez —
 Osmyn, a noble prisoner —
 Heli, a prisoner, his friend —
 Selim, an Eunuch —

Mr. AIGKIN.
 Mr. PACER.
 Mr. FARRER.
 Mr. NORRIS.
 Mr. WRIGHTEN.
 Mr. SMITH.
 Mr. R. PALMER.
 Mr. FAWCET.
 Mr. CLARKE.
 Mr. HULL.
 Mr. WHITFIELD.
 Mr. THOMSON.
 Mr. FEARON.
 Mr. LEWIS.
 Mr. DAVIES.
 Mr. BOOTH.

W O M E N.

Almeria, the princess of Granada —
 Zara, a captive queen —
 Leonora, chief attendant on the princess

Miss KEMBLE.
 Mrs. SIDDONS.
 Miss TIDSWELL.
 Mrs. YATES.
 Miss YOUNGE.
 Miss PLATT.

Women, Eunuchs, and Mules attending Zara, Guards, &c.

S C E N E, G R A N A D A.

THE MOURNING BRIDE.

ACT I. SCENE a Room of State.

The Curtain rising slowly to soft Music, discovers Almeria in Mourning, Leonora waiting in Mourning.

After the Music, Almeria rises from her Chair, and comes forward.

Almeria.

MUSIC has charms to sooth a savage breast,
To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.
I've read that things inanimate have mov'd,
And, as with living souls, have been inform'd,
By magic numbers and persuasive sound.
What then am I? Am I more senseless grown
Than trees or flint? O force of constant woe!
'Tis not in harmony to calm my griefs.
Anselmo sleeps, and is at peace: last night
The silent tomb receiv'd the good old King:
He and his sorrows now are safely lodg'd
Within its cold, but hospitable bosom:
Why am not I at peace?

Leon. Dear Madam, cease,
Or moderate your grief, there is no cause——

Alm. No cause! peace, peace! there is eternal cause,
And misery eternal will succeed.
Thou canst not tell——thou hast indeed no cause.

Leon. Believe me, Madam, I lament Anselmo,
And always did compassionate his fortune;
Have often wept, to see how cruelly
Your father kept in chains his fellow king:
And oft at night, when all have been retir'd
Have stolen from bed, and to his prison crept;
Where, while his gaoler slept, I thro' the grate

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Have softly whisper'd, and inquir'd his health;
Sent in my sighs and pray'rs for his deliv'rance;
For sighs and pray'rs were all that I could offer.

Alm. Indeed thou hast a soft and gentle nature,
That thus could melt to see a stranger's wrongs.
O Leonora, hadst thou known Anselmo,
How wou'd thy heart have bled to see his suff'rings!
'Thou hadst no cause, but general compassion.

Leon. Love of my royal mistiefs gave me cause:
My love of you begot my grief for him;
For I had heard, that when the chance of war
Had blest'd Anselmo's arms with victory,
And the rich spoil of all the field, and you,
The glory of the whole, were made the prey
Of his success; 'that then, in spite of hate,
'Revenge, and that hereditary feud
'Between Valentia's and Granada's kings,'
He did indear himself to your affection,
By all the worthy and indulgent ways
His most industrious goodness cou'd invent;
Proposing, by a match between Alphonso
His son, the brave Valentian prince, and you,
'To end the long dissention, and unite
'The jarring crowns.

Alm. Alphonso! O Alphonso!
'Thou too are quiet——long hast been at peace—
'Both, both——Father and son are now no more.
'Then why am I? O when shall I have rest?
'Why do I live to say you are no more?
'Why are all these things thus?——Is it of force?
'Is there necessity I must be miserable?
'Is it of moment to the peace of Heav'n
'That I shou'd be afflicted thus?——If not,
'Why is it thus contriv'd? Why are things laid
'By some unseen hand, so, as of sure consequence,
'They must to me bring curses, grief of heart,
'The last distress of life, and sure despair?'

Leon. Alas, you search too far, and think too deeply.'

Alm. Why was I carry'd to Anselmo's court?
Or there, why was I us'd so tenderly?

Why

Why not ill treated, like an enemy?
 For so my father wou'd have us'd his child.
 O Alphonso, Alphonso!
 Devouring seas have wash'd thee from my sight.
 No time shall raze thee from my memory;
 No, I will live to be thy monument:
 The cruel ocean is no more thy tomb;
 But in my heart thou art interr'd: there, there,
 Thy dear resemblance is for ever fix'd:
 My love, my lord, my husband still, tho' lost?

Leon. Husband! O heav'ns!

Alm. Alas! what have I said?

My grief has hurry'd me beyond all thought.
 I wou'd have kept that secret; though I know
 Thy love and faith to me deserve all confidence.
 ' But 'tis the wretch's comfort still to have
 ' Some small reserve of near and inward woe,
 ' Some unsuspected hoard of darling grief,
 ' Which they unseen may wail, and weep, and mourn,
 ' And glutton-like alone devour.

Leon. Indeed

' I knew not this.

Alm. O no, thou know'st not half,

' Know'st nothing of my sorrows—if thou didst—
 ' If I shou'd tell thee, wou'dst thou pity me?
 ' Tell me: I know thou wou'dst, thou art compassionate.'

Leon. Witness these tears——

Alm. I thank thee Leonora——

' Indeed I do, for pitying thy sad mistress:
 ' For 'tis alas! the poor prerogative
 ' Of greatness to be wretched, and unpitied——
 ' But I did promise I wou'd tell thee—What?
 ' My miseries? thou dost already know 'em.
 ' And when I told thee thou didst nothing know,
 ' It was because thou didst not know Alphonso:
 ' For to have known my loss, thou must have known
 ' His worth, his truth, and tenderness of love.'

Leon. The memory of that brave prince stands fair
 In all report——

And I have heard imperfectly his loss;

But fearful to renew your troubles past,
I never did presume to ask the story.

Alm. If for my swelling heart I can, I'll tell thee.
I was a welcome captive in Valentia,
E'en on the day when Manuel, my father,
Led on his conqu'ring troops high as the gates
Of King Anselmo's palace; which, in rage,
And heat of war, and dire revenge, he fir'd,
The good king, flying to avoid the flames,
Started amidst his foes, and made captivity
His fatal refuge——Wou'd that I had fall'n
Amidst those flames—but 'twas not so decreed.

Alphonso, who foresaw my father's cruelty,
Had borne the queen and me on board a ship
Ready to sail; and when this news was brought
We put to sea; but being betray'd by some,
Who knew our flight, we closely were pursu'd,
And almost taken; when a sudden storm
Drove us, and those that follow'd, on the coast
Of Afric: there our vessel struck the shore,
And bulging 'gainst a rock was dash'd in pieces;
But Heav'n spar'd me for yet much more affliction!
Conducting them who follow'd us, to shun
The shore, and save me floating on the waves,
While the good queen and my Alphonso perish'd.

Leon. Alas! where you then wedded to Alphonso?

Alm. That day, that fatal day, our hands were join'd.
For when my lord beheld the ship pursuing,
And saw her rate so far exceeding ours,
He came to me, and begg'd me by my love,
I wou'd consent the priest shou'd make us one;
That whether death or victory ensu'd,
I might be his, beyond the power of Fate;
The queen too did assist his suit—I granted!
And in one day was wedded and a widow.

Leon. Indeed 'twas mournful——

Alm. 'Twas—as I have told thee——
For which I mourn, and will for ever mourn:
Nor will I change these black and dismal robes,
Or ever dry these swollen and watry eyes;

Or

Or ever taste content, or peace of heart,
While I have life and thought of my Alphonso.

" [Loud shouts.]

Leon. ' Look down good Heav'n, with pity on her
' sorrows,

• And grant that Time may bring her some relief.

' Alm. O no! 'Time gives increase to my afflictions.

• The circling hours, that gather all the woes,

• Which are diffus'd thro' the revolving year,

• Come heavy laden with th' oppressing weight,

• To me; with me, successively, they leave

• The sighs, the tears, the groans, the restless cares,

• And all the damps of grief, that did retard their flight:

• They shake their downy wings, and scatter all

• The dire collected dews on my poor head;

• Then fly with joy and swiftness from me.'

Leon. Hark!

The distant shouts proclaim your father's triumph:

[Shouts at a distance.]

O cease for heav'n's sake, assuage a little

This torrent of your grief; for much, I fear,

'Twill urge his wrath, to see you drown'd in tears,

When joy appears in ev'ry other face.

Alm. And joy he brings to ev'ry other heart,

But double, double weight of woe to mine:

For with him Garcia comes—Garcia, to whom

I must be sacrific'd, and all the vows

I gave my dear Alphonso basely broken.

No, it shall never be; for I will die

First, die ten thousand deaths—Look down, look down,

Alphonso, hear the sacred vow I make; [Kneels.]

• One moment, cease to gaze on perfect bliss,

• And bend thy glorious eyes to earth and me;

And thou Anselmo, if yet thou art arriv'd

Thro' all impediments of purging fire,

To that bright heav'n, where my Alphonso reigns,

Behold thou also, and attend my vow.

If ever I do yield, or give content,

By any action, word, or thought, to wed

• Another lord; may then just Heav'n show'r down

Unheard

Unheard of curses on me, greater far
(If such there be in angry heav'n's vengeance)

'Than any I have yet endur'd—And now
My heart has some relief: having so well
Discharg'd this debt, incumbent on my love.
Yet one thing more I wou'd engage from thee.

[*Rising.*

Leon. My heart, my life and will, are only yours.

Alm. I thank thee. 'Tis but this: anon, when all
Are wrapp'd and busied in the general joy,
Thou wilt withdraw, and privately with me
Steal forth to visit good Anselmo's tomb.

Leon. Alas! I fear some fatal resolution.

Alm. No, on my life, my faith, I mean no ill,
Nor violence——I feel myself more light,
And more at large, since I have made this vow.
Perhaps I would repeat it there more solemnly.
'Tis that, or some such melancholy thought,
Upon my word, no more.

Leon. I will attend you.

Enter Alonzo.

Alon. The lord Gonfalez comes to tell your highness
The King is just arriv'd.

Alm. Conduct him in.

[*Exit Alon.*

That's his pretence: his errand is, I know,
To fill my ears with Garcia's valiant deeds;
And gild and magnify his son's exploits.
But I am arm'd with ice around my heart,
Not to be warm'd with words, or idle eloquence.

Enter Gonfalez.

Gon. Be ev'ry day of your long life like this.
The sun, bright conquest, and your brighter eyes,
Have all conspired to blaze promiscuous light,
And bless this day with most unequal lustre,
Your royal father, my victorious lord,
Loaden with spoils, and ever-living laurel,
Is ent'ring now, in martial pomp, the palace.
Five hundred mules precede his solemn march,
Which groan beneath the weight of Moorish wealth.
Chariots of war, adorn'd with glitt'ring gems,
Succeed: and next, a hundred neighing steeds,

White

White as the fleecy rain on Alpine hills;
 That bound and foam, and champ the golden bit,
 As they disdain'd the victory they grace.
 Prisoners of war in shining fetters follow:
 And captains of the noblest blood of Afric
 Sweat by his chariot wheels, ' and lick and grind.
 ' With gnashing teeth, the dust his triumphs raise.'
 The swarming populace spread every wall,
 ' And cling, as if with claws they did enforce
 ' Their hold, thro' clefted stones, stretching and staring
 ' As if they were all eyes, and every limb
 ' Would feed its faculty of admiration,
 While you alone retire, and shun this fight!
 This fight which is indeed not seen (tho' twice the
 The multitude should gaze) in absence of your eyes.

Alm. My lord, mine eyes ungratefully behold
 The gilded trophies of exterior honours.
 Nor will my ears be charm'd with sounding words,
 Or pompous phrase; the pageantry of souls.
 But that my father is return'd in safety,
 I bend to heav'n with thanks.

Gonf. Excellent princess!
 But 'tis a task unfit for my weak age
 With dying words to offer at your praise,
 Garcia, my son, your beauty's lowest slave,
 Has better done; in proving with his sword
 The force and influence of your matchless charms.

Alm. I doubt not of the worth of Garcia's deeds,
 Which had been brave, though I had ne'er been born.

Leon. Madam, the King.

[*Flourish.*

' *Alm.* My women. I wou'd meet him.'

[*Attendants to Almeria enter in Mourning.*
Symphony of warlike Music. Enter the King, attended by
Garcia and several Officers. Files of Prisoners in Chains,
and Guards, who are rang'd in order round the Stage.
Almeria meets the King, and kneels; afterwards Gonfalez
kneels and kisses the King's Hand, while Garcia does the
same to the Princess.

King. Almeria, rise—My best Gonfalez, rise—
 What, tears! my good old friend——

Gonf.

Gonf. But tears of joy.

Believe me, Sir, to see you thus has fill'd
Mine eyes with more delight than they can hold.

King. By Heav'n thou lov'st me, and I am pleas'd thou dost.
Take it for thanks, old man, that I rejoice
To see thee weep on this occasion—some
Here are, who seem to mourn at our success!
Why is't Almeria, that you meet our eyes,
Upon this solemn day, in these sad weeds?
In opposition to my brightness, you
And yours are all like daughters of affliction.

Alm. Forgive me, Sir, if I in this offend.
The year, which I have vow'd to pay to Heav'n,
In mourning and strict life, for my deliv'rance
From wreck and death, wants yet to be expir'd.

King. Your zeal to Heav'n is great, so is your debt:
Yet something too is due to me, who gave
That life which Heav'n preserv'd. A day bestow'd
In filial duty, had aton'd, and given
A dispensation to your vow—No more!
'Twas weak and wilful—and a woman's error.
Yet—upon thought, it doubly wounds my sight,
To see that sable worn upon the day,
Succeeding that, in which our deadliest foe,
Hated Anselmo! was interr'd—By Heav'n!
It looks as thou didst mourn for him! just so
Thy senseless vow appear'd to bear its date,
Not from that hour wherein thou wert preserv'd.
But that wherein the curs'd Alphonso perish'd.
Ha! What? thou dost not weep to think of that?

Gonf. Have patience, Royal Sir; the Princess weeps
To have offended you. If fate decreed,
One pointed hour should be Alphonso's loss,
And her deliv'rance, is she to blame?

King. I tell thee she is to blame! not to have feasted.
When my first foe was laid in earth! such enmity,
Such detestation bears my blood to his!
My daughter should have revell'd at his death!
She should have made these palace walls to shake,
And all this high and ample roof to ring

With

With her rejoicings ! What, to mourn and weep ?
Then, then to weep, and pray and grieve ? by Heav'n !
There's not a slave, a shackled slave of mine,
But should have smil'd that hour, through all his care,
And shook his chains in transport and rude harmony !

Gonf. What she has done was in excess of goodness ;
Betray'd by too much piety, to seem
As if she had offended.——Sure, no more.

King. To seem is to commit, at this conjuncture !
I wo'not have a seeming sorrow seen
To day.——Retire, divest yourself with speed
Of that offensive black ; on me be all
The violation of your vow ; for you
It shall be your excuse, that I command it.

Gar. [*Kneeling.*] Your pardon, Sir, if I presume so far,
As to remind you of your gracious promise.

King. Rise, Garcia—I forgot. Yet stay, Almeria.

Alm. My boding heart !—What is your pleasure, Sir ?

King. Draw near, and give your hand : and Garcia, yours !
Receive this Lord, as one whom I have found
Worthy to be your husband and my son.

Gar. Thus let me kneel to take—O not to take——
But to devote, and yield myself for ever
The slave and creature of my Royal Mistress.

Gonf. O let me prostrate pay my worthless thanks——

King. No more ; my promise long since pass'd, thy services,
And Garcia's well-try'd valour, all oblige me.
This day we triumph ; but to morrow's sun,
Garcia, shall shine to grace thy nuptials——

Alm. Oh !

[*Faints.*]

Gar. She faints ! help to support her.

Gonf. She recovers.

King. A fit of bridal fear : How is't, Almeria ?

Alm. A sudden chillness seizes on my spirits.
Your leave, Sir, to retire.

King. Garcia, conduct her.

[*Garcia leads Almeria to the door and returns.*]
This idle vow hangs on her woman's fears,
I'll have a priest shall preach her from her faith,

And

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And make it sin not to renounce that vow
Which I'd have broken. Now, what would Alonzo?

Enter Alonzo and Attendants.

Alon. Your beauteous captive, Zara, is arriv'd,
And with a train as if she still were wife
To Albucacim, and the Moor had conquer'd.

King. It is our will she should be so attended.
Bear hence these prisoners. Garcia, which is he,
Of whose mute valour you relate such wonders?

[Prisoners led off.]

Gar. Osmyn who led the moorish horse; but he,
Great Sir, at her request, attends on Zara.

King. He is your prisoner; as you please dispose him.

Gar. I would oblige him, but he shuns my kindness;
And with a haughty mien, and stern civility,
Dumbly declines all offers: if he speak,
'Tis scarce above a word; as he were born
Alone to do, and did disdain to talk;
At least to talk where he must not command.

King. Such fullness, and in a man so brave,
Must have some other cause than his captivity.
Did Zara, then, request he might attend her?

Gar. My Lord, she did.

King. That join'd with his behaviour,
Begets a doubt. I'd have 'em watch'd; perhaps
Her chains hang heavier on him than his own.

*Enter Zara and Osmyn bound, conducted by Perez and
a Guard, and attended by Selim and several Mutes
and Eunuchs in a train.*

King. What welcome and what honours, beauteous
Zara,

A king and conqueror can give; are yours.
A conqueror indeed, where you are won;
Who with such lustre strike admiring eyes,
That had our pomp been with your presence grac'd,
Th' expecting crowd had been deceiv'd; and seen
The monarch enter not triumphant, but
In pleasing triumph led; your beauty's slave.

Zara.

Zara. If I on any terms could condescend
To like captivity, or think those honours,
Which conquerors in courtesy bestow,
Of equal value with unborrow'd rule,
And native right, to arbitrary sway:
I might be pleas'd, when I behold this train
With usual homage wait. But when I feel
These bonds, I look with loathing on myself;
And scorn vile slavery, though doubly hid
Beneath mock-praises, and dissembled state.

King. Those bonds! 'Twas my command you should
How durst you, Perez, disobey? [be free;

Perez. Great Sir,
Your order was she should not wait your triumph;
But at some distance follow, thus attended.

King. 'Tis false! 'twas more! I bid she should be free!
If not in words, I bid it by my eyes!
Her eyes did more than bid—Free her and hers
With speed!—yet stay—my hands alone can make
Fit restitution here!—Thus I release you,
And by releasing you, enslave myself.

Zara. Such favours, so conferr'd, tho' when unsought,
Deserve acknowledgment from noble minds,
Such thanks, as one hating to be oblig'd—
Yet hating more ingratitude, can pay,
I offer.

King. Born to excel, and to command!
As by transcendent beauty to attract
All eyes, so by pre-eminence of soul
To rule all hearts.

Garcia, what's he, who with contracted brow,
[Beholding Osmyn as they unbind him:
And sullen port, glooms downward with his eyes;
At once regardless of his chains, or liberty?

Gar. That, Sir, is he, of whom I spoke; that's Osmyn.

King. He answers well the character you gave him.
Whence comes it, valiant Osmyn, that a man
So great in arms, as thou art said to be,
So hardly can endure captivity,
The common chance of war?

Osm.

Osm. Because captivity
Has robb'd me of a dear and just revenge.

King. I understand not that.

Osm. I would not have you,

Zara. That gall'ant Moor in battle lost a friend,
Whom more than life he lov'd; and the regret
Of not revenging on his foes that loss,
Has caus'd this melancholy and despair.

King. She does excuse him; 'tis as I suspected. [*To Gons.*]

Gons. That friend may be herself: seem not to heed
His arrogant reply: she looks concern'd.

King. I'll have enquiry made; perhaps his friend
Yet lives, and is a prisoner. His name?

Zara. Heli.

King. Garcia, that search shall be your care:
It shall be mine to pay devotion here;
At this fair shrine to lay my laurels down.
And raise love's altar on the spoils of war.
Conquest and triumph, now, are mine, no more;
Nor will I Victory in camps adore:

‘ For, lingering there, in long suspense she stands,

‘ Shifting the prize in unresolving hands;

‘ Unus'd to wait, I broke through her delay,

‘ Fix'd her by force, and snatch'd the doubtful day.

‘ Now late I find that war is but her sport:

‘ In Love the goddess keeps her awful court:’

Fickle in fields, unsteadily she flies,

But rules with settled sway in Zara's eyes,

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT II. SCENE, *the Aisle of a Temple.*

‘ Garcia, Heli, and Perez.

‘ Garcia.

‘ **T**HIS way, we're told, Osmyn was seen to walk;
‘ Choosing this lonely mansion of the dead,

‘ To mourn, brave Heli, thy mistaken fate.

Heli. Let heav'n with thunder to the center strike me,

If to arise in very deed from death,
 And to revisit with my long-clos'd eyes
 This living light, cou'd to my soul, or sense,
 Afford a thought, or shew a glimpse of joy,
 In least proportion to the vast delight
 I feel, to hear of Osmyn's name; to hear
 That Osmyn lives, and I again shall see him.

Gar. I've heard, with admiration, of your friendship.

Per. Yonder, my lord, behold the noble Moor!

Heli. Where, where?

Gar. I saw him not, nor any like him——

Per. I saw him, when I spoke, thwarting my view,
 And striding with distemper'd haste! his eyes
 Seem'd flame, and flash'd upon me with a glance;
 Then forward shot their fires, which he pursu'd,
 As to some object frightful yet not fear'd.

Gar. Let's haste to follow him, and know the cause.

Heli. My lord, let me intreat you to forbear:
 Leave me alone to find and cure the cause.

I know his melancholy, and such starts
 Are usual to his temper. It might raise him
 To act some violence upon himself,
 So to be caught in an unguarded hour,
 And when his soul gives all her passions way,
 Secure and loose in friendly solitude.

I know his noble heart would burst with shame,
 To be surpriz'd by strangers in his frailty.

Per. Go, generous Heli, and relieve your friend.

Far be it from me, officiously to pry

Or press upon the privacies of others.

[Exit Heli.]

Gar. Perez, the King expects from our return
 To have his jealousy confirm'd or clear'd,
 Of that appearing love which Zara bears
 To Osmyn; but some other opportunity
 Must make that plain.

Per. To me 'twas long since plain,
 And every look from him and her confirms it.

Gar. If so, unhappiness attends their love,
 And I could pity 'em. I hear some coming.

The friends, perhaps, are met; let us avoid 'em. [Excunt.]

Enter

Enter Almeria and Leonora.

Alm. It was a fancy'd noise, for all is hush'd.

Leon. It bore the accent of a human voice.

Alm. It was thy fear, or else some transient wind
Whistling thro' hallows of this vaulted isle.
We'll listen——

Leon. Hark!

Alm. No, all is hush'd, and still as death—'tis dreadful!
How reverend is the face of this tall pile,
Whose antient pillars rear their marble heads,
To bear aloft it's arch and pond'rous roof,
By its own weight made stedfast and immoveable,
Looking tranquility. It strikes an awe
And terror on my aking sight: the tombs
And monumental caves of death look cold,
And shoot a chillness to my trembling heart.
Give me thy hand, and let me hear thy voice;
Nay, quickly speak to me, and let me hear
Thy voice—my own affrights me with its echoes.

Leon. Let us return: the horror of this place,
And silence, will increase your melancholy.

Alm. It may my fears, but cannot add to that.
No, I will on; shew me Anselmo's tomb;
Lead me o'er bones and skulls, and mouldering earth
Of human bodies, for I'll mix with them;
Or wind me in the shroud of some pale corse
Yet green in earth, rather than be the bride
Of Gracia's more detested bed: that thought
Exerts my spirit; and my present fears
Are lost in dread of greater ill. Then shew me,
Lead me, for I am bolder grown: Lead on
Where I may kneel, and pay my vows again
To him, to Heav'n, and my Alphonso's soul.

Leon. I go, but Heav'n can tell with what regret.'

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Heli.

Heli. I wander thro' this maze of monuments,
Yet cannot find him—hark! sure 'tis the voice
Of one complaining—there it sounds—I'll follow it. [*Exit.*]
The

The SCENE opening discovers a Place of Tombs: one Monument fronting the View greater than any of the rest.

Enter Almeria and Leonora.

Leon. Behold the sacred vault, within whose tomb
The poor remains of good Anselmo rest,
Yet fresh and unconsum'd by time or worms.
What do I see? O Heav'n! either my eyes
Are false, or still the marble door remains
Unclos'd; or the iron grates, that lead to death
Beneath, are still wide stretch'd upon their hinge,
And staring on us with unfolded leaves.

Alm. Sure 'tis the friendly yawn of death for me;
And that dumb mouth, significant in show,
Invites me to the bed, where I alone
Shall rest; shews me the grave, where nature, weary
And long oppress'd with woes and bending cares,
May lay the burthen down, and sink in slumbers
Of peace eternal. 'Death, grim Death, will fold
' Me in his leaden arms, and press me close
' To his cold clayie-breast:' my father then
Will cease his tyranny: and Garcia too
Will fly my pale deformity with loathing.
My soul, enlarg'd from its vile bonds, will mount,
And range the starry orbs and milky ways,
' Of that refulgent world, where I shall swim
' In liquid light, and float on seas of bliss'
' To my Alphonso's soul. O joy too great!
O ecstacy of thought! help me, Anselmo!
Help me, Alphonso! take me, reach thy hand;
To thee, to thee I call, to thee, Alphonso!
O Alphonso!

Osmyr ascending from the Tomb.

Osmyr. Who calls that wretched thing that was Alphonso?

Alm. Angels, and all the host of Heaven, support me!

Osmyr. Whence is that voice, whose shrillness from the
grave,

And growing to his father's shroud, roots up
Alphonso?

Alm. Mercy! Providence! O speak.

Speak

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Speak to it quickly, quickly ; speak to me,
Comfort me, help me, hold me, hide me, hide me,
Leonora, in thy bosom from the light,
And from my eyes.

Osm. Amazement and illusion !
Rivet and nail me where I stand, ye Pow'rs

[*Coming forward.*]

That motionless I may be still deceiv'd.
Let me not stir nor breathe, lest I dissolve
That tender, lovely form of painted air,
So like Almeria. Ha ! it sinks, it falls ;
I'll catch it ere it goes, and grasp her shade.
'Tis life ! 'tis warm ! 'tis she, 'tis she herself !
Nor dead, nor shade, but breathing and alive !
It is Almeria, 'tis, it is my wife !

Enter Heli.

Leon. Alas, she stirs not yet, nor lifts her eyes !
He too is fainting—Help me, help me, stranger,
Whoe'er thou art, and lend thy hand to raise
These bodies.

Heli. Ha ! 'tis he ! and with Almeria !
O miracle of happiness ! O joy
Unhop'd for ! does Almeria live ?

Osm. Where is she ?
Let me behold and touch her, and be sure
'Tis she ; ' show me her face, and let me feel
' Her lips with mine——'Tis she, I'm not deceiv'd ;
' I taste her breath, I warm'd her and am warm'd.'
Look up, Almeria, bless me with thy eyes !
Look on thy love, thy lover, and thy husband !

Alm. I've sworn I'll not wed Garcia : why d'ye force me ?
Is this a father ?

Osm. Look on thy Alphonso.
Thy father is not here, my love, nor Garcia :
Nor am I what I seem, but thy Alphonso.
' Wilt thou not know me ? Hast thou then forgot me ?
' Hast thou thy eyes, yet canst not see Alphonso ?'
Am I so altered, or art thou so chang'd,
That seeing my disguise, thou seest not me ?

Alm. It is, it is Alphonso ; 'tis his face.

His

His voice, I know him now, I know him all.

‘ O take me to thy arms, and bear me hence,

‘ Back to the bottom of the boundless deep,

‘ To seas beneath, where thou so long hast dwelt.’

Oh! how hast thou return’d? how hast thou charm’d

The wildness of the waves and rocks to this?

That thus relenting they have giv’n thee back

To earth, to light and life, to love and me.

Osm. O I’ll not ask, nor answer how, or why

We both have backward trod the paths of Fate,

To meet again in life; to know I have thee,

Is knowing more than any circumstance

Or means by which I have thee——

To fold thee thus, to press thy balmy lips,

And gaze upon thy eyes, is so much joy,

I have no leisure to reflect, or know,

Or trifle time in thinking.

Alm. Stay a while——

Let me look on thee yet a little more.

‘ *Osm.* What wouldst thou? thou dost put me from thee.

‘ *Alm.* Yes. [gaze so?

‘ *Osm.* And why? what dost thou mean? why dost thou

Alm. I know not, ’tis to see thy face: I think——

It is too much! too much to bear, and live!

To see him thus again is such profusion

Of joy, of bliss——I cannot bear——I must

Be mad——I cannot be transported thus!

Osm. Thou excellence, thou joy, thou heav’n of love!

Alm. Where hast thou been? and how art thou alive?

‘ How is all this? all pow’rful Heav’n, what are we!

‘ O my strain’d heart——let me again behold thee,

‘ For I weep to see thee——art thou not paler?

‘ Much, much! how thou art chang’d!

‘ *Osm.* Not in my love.

‘ *Alm.* No, no, thy griefs, I know, have done this to
‘ thee.

‘ Thou hast wept much, Alphonso, and, I fear,

‘ Too much, too tenderly lamented me.

‘ *Osm.* Wrong not my love, to say too tenderly!

‘ No more, my life: talk not of tears or grief;

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- Affliction is no more, now thou art found.
- Why dost thou weep, and hold thee from my arms,
- My arms which ake to fold thee fast, and grow
- To thee with twining? come, come to my heart!

• *Alm.* I will, for I should never look enough.

- They would have marry'd me; but I had sworn
- To Heav'n and thee, and sooner would have dy'd—

• *Osm.* Perfection of all faithfulness and love!

• *Alm.* Indeed I would—Nay, I would tell thee all,

- If I could speak, how I have mourn'd and pray'd:

- For I have pray'd to thee, as to a saint:

- And thou hast heard my prayer; for thou art come

- To my distress, to my despair, which Heav'n

- Could only, by restoring thee, have cur'd. [days,

- *Osm.* Grant me but life, good Heav'n, but length of

- To pay some part, some little of this debt,

- This countless sum of tenderness and love,

- For which I stand engag'd to this all-excellence:

- Then bear me in a whirlwind to my fate,

- Snatch me from life, and cut me short unwarn'd:

- Then, then 'twill be enough—I shall be old,

- I shall have liv'd beyond all years then

- Of yet unmeasur'd time; when I have made

- This exquisite, this most amazing goodness,

- Some recompence of love and matchless truth.

• *Alm.* 'Tis more than recompence to see thy face:

- If heav'n is greater joy, it is no happiness,

- For 'tis not to be borne—what shall I say?

- I have a thousand things to know and ask,

- And speak—that thou art here beyond all hope,

- All thought; that all at once thou art before me,

- And with such suddenness hast hit my sight,

- Is such surprize, such mystery, such ecstasy;

- It hurries all my soul, and stuns my sense.

- Sure from thy father's tomb thou didst arise!

Osm. I did; and thou, my love, didst call me; thou.

Alm. True; but how cam'st thou there? wert thou alone?

Osm. I was, and lying on my father's bed,

When broken echoes of a distant voice

Disturb'd

Disturb'd the sacred silence of the vault,
In murmurs round my head. I rose and listen'd,
And thought I heard thy spirit call Alphonso;
I thought I saw thee too; but O, I thought not
That I indeed should be so blest to see thee——

Alm. But still, how cam'st thou thither? how thus!—ha!
What's he, who, like thyself, is started here
Ere seen?

Ofm. Where! ha? what do I see? Antonio!
I'm fortunate indeed——my friend too, safe!

Heli. Most happily, in finding you thus blest'd.

Alm. More miracles! Antonio too escap'd!

Ofm. And twice escap'd, both from the rage of seas
And war; for in the fight I saw him fall.

Heli. But fell unhurt, a pris'ner as yourself,
And as yourself made free: hither I came
Impatiently to seek you, where I knew
Your grief would lead you to lament Anselmo.

Ofm. There are no wonders, or else all is wonder.

Heli. I saw you on the ground, and rais'd you up:
When, with astonishment, I saw Almeria.

Ofm. I saw her too, and therefore saw not thee.

Alm. Nor I, nor could I, for my eyes were yours.

Ofm. What means the bounty of all-gracious Heav'n!
That persevering still, with open hand
It scatters good, as in a waste of mercy!
Where will this end! but Heav'n is infinite
In all, and can continue to bestow,
When scanty number shall be spent in telling.

Leon. Or I'm deceiv'd, or I beheld the glimpse
Of two, in shining habits, cross the isle;
Who, by their pointing, seem'd to mark this place.

Alm. Sure I have dreamt, if we must part so soon.

Ofm. I wish at least our parting were a dream,
Or we could sleep 'till we again were met.

Heli. Zara with Selim, Sir, I saw and know 'em:
You must be quick, for Love will lend her wings.

Alm. What love? who is she? why are you alarm'd?

Ofm. She's the reverse of thee; she's my unhappiness.
Harbour no thought that may disturb thy peace;

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- But gently take thyself away, lest she
- Should come, and see the straining of my eyes
- To follow thee—"Retire, my love"—I'll think how we
may meet

To part no more: my friend will tell thee all;
How I escap'd, how I am here, and thus;
How I am not call'd Alphonso now, but Osmyn,
And he Heli. All, all he will unfold,
Ere next we meet——

Alm. Sure we shall meet again——

Osm. We shall; we part not but to meet again.
Gladness and warmth of ever-kindling love
Dwell with thee, and revive thy heart in absence,

[*Exeunt Alm. Leon. and Heli.*

Osmyn alone.

Yet I behold her—yet—and now no more.
Turn your lights inward, eyes, and view my thought,
So shall you still behold her——'twill not be.

- O impotence of sight!——mechanic sense,
- Which to exterior objects ow'th thy faculty,
- Not seeing of election, but necessity.
- Thus do our eyes, as do all common mirrors,
- Successively reflect succeeding images;
- Not what they would, but must; a star, or toad;
- Just as the hand of Chance administers.
- Not so the mind, whose undetermin'd view
- Revolves, and to the present adds the past:
- Effaying farther to futurity;
- But that in vain. I have Almeria here
- At once, as I before have seen her often——

Enter Zara and Selim.

Zara. See where he stands, folded and fix'd to earth,
Stiff'ning in thought, a statue among statues!

Why, cruel Osmyn, dost thou fly me thus?

- Is it well done? is this then the return
- For fame, for honour, and for empire lost?
- But what is loss of honour, fame and empire?
- Is this the recompence reserv'd for love?
- Why dost thou leave my eyes, and fly my arms,
- To find this place of horror and obscurity?

Am

Am I more loathsome to thee than the grave,
That thou dost seek to shield thee there, and shun
My love? but to the grave I'll follow thee——
He looks not, minds not, hears not: barb'rous man,
Am I neglected thus? am I despis'd?
Not heard! ungrateful Osmyn!

Osm. Ha! 'tis Zara!

Zara. Yes, traitor! Zara, lost, abandon'd Zara!
Is a regardless suppliant, now, to Osmyn.
The slave, the wretch that she redeem'd from death,
Disdains to listen now, or look on Zara.

Osm. Far be the guilt of such reproaches from me!
Lost in myself, and blinded by my thoughts,
I saw you not 'till now.

Zara. Now then you see me——
But with such dumb and thankless eyes you lool,
Better I was unseen, than seen thus coldly.

Osm. What would you from a wretch who came to
mourn,
And only for his sorrows chose this solitude?
Look round; joy is not here, nor chearfulness.
You have pursu'd Misfortune to its dwelling,
Yet look for Gaiety and Gladness there.

Zara. Inhuman! why, 'why dost thou rack me thus,
And with perverseness, from the purpose, answer?
What is't to me, this house of Misery?
What joy do I require? if thou dost mourn,
I come to mourn with thee; to share thy griefs,
And give thee for 'em, in exchange, my love.

Osm. O that's the greatest grief——I am so poor,
I have not wherewithal to give again.

Zara. Thou hast a heart, tho' 'tis a savage one;
Give it me as it is; I ask no more
For all I've done, and all I have endur'd:
For saving thee when I beheld thee first,
Driv'n by the tide upon my country's coast,
Pale and expiring, drench'd in briny waves,
Thou and thy friend, till my compassion found thee:
Compassion! scarce will't own that name, so soon,
So quickly was it love; for thou wert godlike

E'en then. Kneeling on earth, I loos'd my hair,
 And with it dry'd those wat'ry cheeks, then chaf'd
 Thy temples, till reviving blood arose,
 And, like the morn, vermilion'd o'er thy-face.
 O Heav'n! how did my heart rejoice and ake,
 When I beheld the day-break of thy eyes,
 And felt the balm of thy respiring lips!

Osm. O call not to my mind what you have done,

• It sets a debt of that account before me,

• Which shews me poor and bankrupt even in hopes.

Zara. • The faithful Selim, and my women know

• The danger which I tempted to conceal you.

• You know how I abus'd the cred'ious King;

• What arts I us'd to make you pass on him,

• When he receiv'd you as the Prince of Fez;

• And, as my kinsman, honour'd and advanc'd you.

O, why do I relate what I have done?

What did I not? was't not for you this war

Commenc'd? not knowing who you were, nor why

You hated Manuel, I urg'd my husband

To this invasion, where he late was lost,

Where all is lost, and I am made a slave.

Osm. You pierce my soul, I own it all—But awhile

• The power is wanting to pay such benefits,

• 'Tis treble anguish to a generous heart.

Zara. Repay me with thy heart—what, dost thou start?

• Make no reply—Is this thy gratitude!"

Look on me now, from empire fall'n to slavery!

Think on my suff'rings first, then look on me!

Think on the cause of all, then view thyself!

Reflect on Osmyn, and then look on Zara,

The fall'n, the lost, and now the captive Zara,

And now abandon'd—say, what then is Osmyn?

Osm. A fatal wretch—a huge stupendous ruin,

That, tumbling on its prop, crush'd all beneath,

And bore contiguous palaces to earth.

Zara. Yet thus, thus fall'n, thus levell'd with the vilest,

If I have gain'd thy love, 'tis glorious ruin!

Ruin! 'tis still to reign, and to be more

A queen! for what are riches, empire, pow'r,

But

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But larger means to gratify the will;
The steps on which we tread, to rise and reach
Our wish, and that obtain'd, down with the scaffolding
Of scepters, crowns, and thrones; they have serv'd their
end,

And are, like lumber, to be left and scorn'd.

Osm. Why was I made the instrument, to throw
In bonds, the frame of this exalted mind?

Zara. We may be free, the conqueror is mine!
In chains, unseen, I hold him by the heart,
And can unwind and strain him as I please.
Give me thy love, I'll give thee liberty.

Osm. In vain you offer, and in vain require.
What neither can bestow. Set free yourself,
And leave a slave the wretch that would be so.

Zara. Thou canst not mean so poorly as thou talk'st.

Osm. Alas, you know me not.

Zara. Not who thou art!

But what this last ingratitude declares,
This groveling baseness — Thou say'st true, I know
Thee not, for what thou art yet wants a name
By something so unworthy and so vile,
That to have lov'd thee makes me yet more lost,
Than all the malice of my other fate.

Traitor, monster, cold and perfidious slave!

A slave, not daring to be free! nor dares

To love above him, for 'tis dangerous:

'Tis that, I know, for thou dost look with eyes

Sparkling desire, and trembling to possess.

I know my charms have reach'd thy very soul,

And thrill'd thee through with darting fires; but thou

Dost fear so much, thou dar'st not wish. The King!

There, there's the dreadful sound, the King's thy rival!

Sel. Madam, the King is here, and entering now.

Zara. As I could wish; by Heav'n I'll be reveng'd.

Enter the King, Perez, and Attendants.

King. Why does the fairest of her kind withdraw
Her shining from the day, to gild this scene
Of death and night? Ha! what disorder's this?
Somewhat I heard of King and rival mention'd.

What's he that dares be rival to the King,
Or lift his eyes to like where I adore?

Zara. There, he, your prisoner, and that was my slave.

King. How! better than my hopes! does she accuse him? [*Aside.*]

Zara. Am I become so low by my captivity;
And do your arms so lessen what they conquer,
That Zara must be made the sport of slaves?
And shall the wretch, whom yeller Sun beheld
Waiting my nod, the creature of my pow'r,
Presume to-day to plead audacious love;
And build bold hopes, on my dejected fate?

King. Better for him to tempt the rage of Heav'n,
And wrench the bolt, red-hissing from the hand
Of him that thunders, than but think that insolence.
'Tis daring for a God. Hence to the wheel
With that Ixion, who aspires to hold
Divinity embrac'd; to whips and prisons
Drag him with speed, and rid me of his face.

[*Guards seize Osmyn.*]

Zara. Compassion led me to bemoan his state,
Whose former faith had merited much more:
And through my hopes in you, I undertook
He should be set at large: thence sprung his insolence,
And what was charity, he constru'd love.

King. Enough, his punishment be what you please.
But let me lead you from this place of sorrow,
To one where young Delights attend; and Joys,
• Yet new, unborn, and blooming in the bud,
• Which wait to be full-blown at your approach,
• And spread, like roses, to the morning sun;
Where ev'ry hour shall roll in circling joys,
And Love shall wing the tedious-waiting day.
Life without Love is load; and Time stands still:
What we refuse to him to Death we give;
And then, then only, when we love, we live.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT III. SCENE a Prison.

Ofmyn alone, with a Paper.

BUT now, and I was clos'd within the tomb
 That holds my father's ashes! and but now,
 Where he was pris'ner, I am too imprison'd!
 Sure 'tis the hand of Heav'n that leads me thus,
 And for some purpose points out these remembrances!
 In a dark corner of my cell I found
 This paper! what it is this light will shew.

If my Alphonso——Ha!

[Reading.

If my Alphonso live, restore him, Heav'n!

Give me more weight, crush my declining years

With bolts, with chains, imprisonment and want;

But bless my son! visit not him for me!

(It is his hand! this was his pray'r!——yet more:)

Let ev'ry hair, which Sorrow by the roots

[Reading.

Tears from my hoary and devoted head,

Be doubled in thy mercies to my son!

Not for myself, but him, bear me, all-gracious——

'Tis wanting what should follow!—Heav'n should follow,

But 'tis torn off!—Why should that word alone

Be torn from this petition? 'Twas to Heav'n,

But Heav'n was deaf; Heav'n heard him not: but thus,

Thus as the name of Heav'n from this is torn,

So did it tear the ears of Mercy from

His voice, shutting the gates of pray'r against him!

If Piety be thus debarr'd access

On high, and of good men the very best

Is singled out to bleed, and bear the scourge,

What is reward? or what is punishment?

But who shall dare to tax eternal Justice?

Yet I may think—I may, I must: for thought

Precedes the will to think, and Error lives

Ere Reason can be born. ' Reason, the power

' To guess at right and wrong, the twinkling lamp

' Of wand'ring life, that winks and wakes by turns,

' Fooling the follower betwixt shade and shining'

What noise! Who's there? my friend, how cam'st thou
 hither!

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Enter Heli.

Heli. The time's too precious to be spent in telling.
The Captain, influenc'd by Almeria's pow'r,
Gave order to the guards for my admittance.

Osm. How does Almeria? But I know she is
As I am. Tell me, may I hope to see her?

Heli. You may: anon, at midnight when the king
Is gone to rest, and Garcia is retir'd,
(Who takes the privilege to visit late,
Presuming on a bridegroom's right) she'll come.

Osm. She'll come! 'tis what I wish, yet what I fear.
She'll come; but whither, and to whom? O Heav'n!
To a vile prison, and a captive wretch;
To one, whom had she never known, she had
Been happy! Why, why was that heav'nly creature
Abandon'd o'er to love what Heav'n forsakes?
Why does she follow, with unwearied steps,
One, who has tir'd Misfortune with pursuing?
• One, driven about the world like blasted leaves
• And chaff, the sport of adverse winds; till late,
• At length imprison'd in some cleft of rock,
• On earth it rests, and rots to silent dust.

Heli. Have hopes, and hear the voice of better Fate.
I've learn'd there are disorders ripe for mutiny
Among the troops, who thought to share the plunder,
Which Manuel to his own use and avarice
Converts. This news has reach'd Valentia's frontiers,
Where many of your subjects, long oppress'd
With tyranny and grievous impositions,
Are risen in arms, and call for chiefs to head
And lead them to regain their rights and liberty.

Osm. By Heav'n, thou'ast rous'd me from my lethargy!
The spirit, which was deaf to my own wrongs,
And the loud cries of my dead father's blood!
• Deaf to revenge—nay, which refus'd to hear
• The piercing sighs and murmurs of my Love,
• Yet unenjoy'd; what not Almeria could
• Revive or raise, my people's voice has waken'd!

“ *Heli.* Our posture of affairs and scanty time,
“ *My Lord,* require you should compose yourself.

“ *Osm.* ”

Osm. "O my Antonio, I am all on fire?
 My soul is up in arms, ready to charge
 And bear amidst the foe with conquering troops.
 I hear 'em call to lead 'em on to liberty,
 To victory! their shouts and clamours rend
 My ears, and reach the heav'ns! Where is the King?
 Where is Alphonso? Ha! where, where indeed?
 O! I could tear and burst the strings of life,
 To break these chains! Off! off! ye stains of royalty!
 Off, Slavery! O curse! that I alone
 Can beat and flutter in my cage, when I
 Would soar, and stoop at victory beneath!"

Heli. "Our posture of affairs and scanty time,
 ' My Lord, require you should compose yourself,
 ' And think on what we may reduce to practice."
"Abate this ardour, Sir, or we are lost."
 Zara, the cause of your restraint, may be
 The means of liberty restor'd. That gain'd,
 Occasion will not fail to point out ways
 For your escape: mean time, I've thought already
 With speed and safety to convey myself,
 Where not far off some malcontents hold council
 Nightly, who hate this tyrant; some, who love
 Anselmo's memory, and will, for certain,
 When they shall know you live, assist your cause.

Osm. My friend and counsellor, as thou think'st fit,
 So do. I will with patience wait my fortune.

Heli. When Zara comes, abate of your aversion.

Osm. I hate her not, nor can dissemble love:
 But as I may, I'll do. "I have a paper
 ' Which I would shew thee, friend, but that the sight
 ' Would hold thee here, and clog thy expedition.
 ' Within I found it, by my father's hand
 ' 'Twas writ; a pray'r for me, wherein appears
 ' Paternal love prevailing o'er his sorrows;
 ' Such sanctity, such tenderness so mix'd
 ' With grief, as would draw tears from inhumanity.

Heli. The care of Providence sure left it there,
 ' To arm your mind with hope. Such piety
 ' Was never heard in vain: Heav'n has in store

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- For you those blessings it with held from him.
- In that assurance live; which time, I hope,
- And our next meeting will confirm.

• *Osm.* Farewel.

My friend: the good thou dost deserve, attend thee!

[*Exit Heli.*]

Osmyn alone.

I've been to blame, and question'd with impiety
 'The care of Heav'n. Not so my father bore
 More anxious grief. This should have better taught me;
 ' This lesson, in some hour of inspiration
 ' By him set down; when his pure thoughts were borne,
 ' Like fumes of sacred incense, o'er the clouds,
 ' And wafted thence, on angels wings, thro' ways
 ' Of light, to the bright Source of all. For there
 ' He in the book of prescience saw this day;
 ' And waking to the world, and mortal sense,
 ' Left this example of his resignation,
 This his last legacy to me; which, here,
 I'll treasure as more worth than diadems,
 Or all extended rule of regal pow'r.

Enter Zara veil'd.

Osm. What brightness breaks upon me thus through
 shades,

And promises a day to this dark dwelling? .

Is it my love?—

Zara. O that thy heart had taught . [*lifting her veil.*]
 Thy tongue that saying!

Osm. *Zara!* I am betray'd by my surprise!

Zara. What, does my face displease thee?

That having seen it thou dost turn thy eyes

Away, as from deformity and horror?

If so, this sable curtain shall again

Be drawn, and I stand before thee seeing,

And unseen. Is it my love? Ask again

That question; speak again in that soft voice;

And look again with wishes in thy eyes.

O no, thou canst not, for thou seest me now!

As she whose savage breast hath been the cause

Of these thy wrongs! as she whose barb'rous rage

Has

Has loaded thee with chains and galling irons :
 ' Well dost thou scorn me, and upbraid my falseness:
 ' Could one who lov'd, thus torture whom she lov'd?
 ' No, no; it must be hatred, dire revenge,
 ' And detestation, that could use thee thus!
 ' So dost thou think; then do but tell me so!
 ' Tell me, and thou shalt see how I'll revenge
 ' Thee on this false one, how I'll stab and tear
 ' This heart of flint 'till it shall bleed! and thou
 ' Shalt weep for mine, forgetting thy own miseries.'

Ojm. You wrong me, beauteous Zara, to believe
 I bear my fortunes with so low a mind,

' As still to meditate revenge on all
 ' Whom Chance, or fate working by secret causes,
 ' Has made per-force subservient to the end
 ' The heav'nly Powers allot me! no, not you,'
 But Destiny and inauspicious stars

Have cast me down to this low being: or
 Granting you had, from you I have deserv'd it.

Zara. Canst thou forgive me then? wilt thou believe
 So kindly of my fault, to call it madness?
 O give that madness yet a milder name,
 And call it passion! then, be still more kind,
 And call that passion love!

Ojm. Give it a name,
 Or being as you please, such I will think it.

Zara. O thou dost wound me more with this thy goodness,

Than e'er thou couldst with bitterest reproaches!
 Thy anger could not pierce thus to my heart!

Ojm. Yet I could wish——

Zara. Haste me to know it! what?

Ojm. That at this time I had not been this thing.

Zara. What thing?

Ojm. This slave.

Zara. O Heav'n! my fears interpret
 This thy silence! somewhat of high concern,
 Long fashioning within thy labouring mind,
 And now just ripe for birth, my rage has ruin'd!
 Have I done this? Tell me! am I so curs'd?

Ojm.

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Ofm. Time still may have one fated hour to come,
Which, wing'd with liberty, might overtake
Occasion past.

Zara. Swift as Occasion, I
Myself will fly! and earlier than the Morn
Wake thee to freedom! ' Now 'tis late; and yet
' Some news few minutes past arriv'd, which seem'd
' To shake the temper of the King!—Who knows
' What racking cares disease a monarch's bed?
' Or Love, that late at night still lights his lamp,
' And strikes his rays thro' dusk and folded lids,
' Forbidding rest, may stretch his eyes awake,
' And force their balls abroad at this dead hour!
' I'll try.'

Ofm. I have not merited this grace;
Nor, shou'd my secret purpose take effect,
Can I repay, as you require, such benefits.

Zara. Thou canst not owe me more, nor have I more
To give, than I've already lost. But now,
So does the form of our engagements rest,
Thou hast the wrong till I redeem thee hence;
That done, I leave thy justice to return
My Love. Adieu!

[Exit.

Ofmyn alone.

This woman has a soul
Of godlike mould, intrepid and commanding,
And challenges, in spite of me, my best
Esteem! ' To this she's fair, few more can boast
' Of personal charms; or with less vanity
' Might hope to captivate the hearts of kings!
But she has passions which outstrip the wind,
And tear her virtues up, as tempests root
The sea. I fear, when she shall know the truth,
Some swift and dire event of her blind rage
Will make all fatal! But, behold! she comes
For whom I fear, to shield me from my fears!
The cause and comfort of my boding heart!

Enter Almeria.

Ofm. My life, my health, my liberty, my all!
How shall I welcome thee to this sad place?

How

How speak to thee the words of joy and transport?
How run into thy arms with-held by fetters;
Or take thee into mine, while I'm thus manacled
And pinion'd like a thief or murderer?
Shall I not hurt or bruise thy tender body,
And stain thy bosom with the rust of these
Rude irons? Must I meet thee thus, Almeria?

Alm. 'Thus, thus; we parted, thus to meet again.
Thou toldst me thou wouldst think how we might meet
To part no more——Now we will part no more;
For these thy chains, or death, shall join us ever.

Osm. Hard means to ratify that word!—O cruelty!
'That ever I should think beholding thee
'A torture!—yet, such is the bleeding anguish
'Of my heart, to see thy sufferings——O Heav'n!
'That I could almost turn my eyes away,
'Or with thee from my sight.

Alm. O! say not so;
'Tho' 'tis because thou lov'st me. Do not say,
'On any terms, that thou dost wish me from thee,
'No, no, 'tis better thus, that we together
'Feed on each other's heart, devour our woes
'With mutual appetite; and mingling in
'One cup the common stream of both our eyes,
'Drink bitter draughts, with never-slacking thirst;
'Thus better, than for any cause to part.
'What dost thou think? Look not so tenderly
'Upon me—speak, and take me in thy arms——
'Thou canst not! thy poor arms are bound, and strive
'In vain with the remorseless chains which gnaw
'And eat into the flesh, fest'ring thy limbs
'With rankling rust.'

Osm. Oh! O——

Alm. Give me that sigh.
Why dost thou heave, and stifle in thy griefs?
Thy heart will burst, thy eyes look red and start;
Give thy soul way, and tell me thy dark thought.

Osm. For this world's rule, I would not wound thy breast
With such a dagger as then struck my heart.

Alm. Why? why? To know it, cannot wound me more,
Than

Than knowing thou hast felt it. Tell it me,
—Thou giv'st me pain with too much tenderness!

Osm. And thy excessive love distracts my sense!
O would thou be less killing, soft, or kind,
Grief could not double thus his darts against me.

Alm. Thou dost me wrong, and Grief too robs my
heart,
If there he shoot not every other shaft;
Thy second self thou'd feel each other wound,
And woe should be in equal portions dealt.
I am thy wife—

Osm. O thou hast search'd too deep:
There, there I bleed: there pull the cruel cords,
That strain my cracking nerves; engines and wheels,
That piece-meal grind, are beds of down and balm
To that soul-racking thought.

Alm. Then I am curs'd
Indeed, if that be so; if I'm thy torment,
Kill me, then kill me, dash me with thy chains,
Tread on me: 'What, am I the bosom-snake,
' That sucks thy warm life-blood, and gnaws thy heart?
' O that thy words had force to break those bonds,
' As they have strength to tear this heart in sunder;
' So should'st thou be at large from all oppression.'
Am I, am I of all thy woes the worst?

Osm. My all of bliss, my everlasting life,
Soul of my Soul, and end of all my wishes,
Why dost thou thus unman me with thy words?
And melt me down to mingle with thy weepings?
Why dost thou ask? Why dost thou talk thus piercingly?
Thy sorrows have disturb'd thy peace of mind,
And thou dost speak of miseries impossible.

Alm. Didst not thou say that racks and wheels were
balm
And beds of ease, to thinking me thy wife?

Osm. No, no; nor shou'd the subtlest pains that hell,
Or hell-born malice can invent, extort
A wish or thought from me to have thee other.
But thou wilt know what harrows up my heart:
Thou art my wife—nay thou art yet my bride!

The sacred union of connubial Love
 Yet unaccomplished, ' his mysterious rites
 ' Delay'd; nor has our hymeneal torch
 ' Yet lighted up his last most grateful sacrifice;
 ' But dash'd with rain from eyes, and swal'd with sighs,
 ' Burns dim, and glimmers with expiring light.'
 Is this dark cell a temple for that God?
 Or this vile earth an altar for such offerings?
 This den for slaves, this dungeon damp'd with woes;
 ' Is this our marriage bed? are these our joys?'
 Is this to call thee mine? O hold, my heart!
 To call thee mine? Yes; thus, even thus to call
 Thee mine, were comfort, joy, extremest ecstasy!
 But thou art not mine, not e'en in misery;
 And 'tis deny'd to me to be so blest'd,
 As to be wretched with thee.

Alm. No; not that

Th' extremest malice of our Fate can hinder:
 That still is left us, and on that we'll feed,
 As on the leavings of Calamity.
 There we will feast and smile on past distress,
 And hug, in scorn of it, our mutual ruin.

Osm. O thou dost talk, my love, as one resolv'd,
 Because not knowing danger. But look forward;
 Think of to-morrow, when thou shalt be torn
 From these weak, struggling unextended arms:
 Think how my heart will heave, and eyes will strain,
 To grasp and reach what is deny'd my hands!
 ' Think how the blood will start, and tears will gush
 ' To follow thee, my separating soul!'
 Think how I am, when thou shalt wed with Garcia!
 Then will I smear these walls with blood, disfigure
 And dash my face, and rive my clotted hair,
 Break on this flinty floor my throbbing breast,
 And grovel with gash'd hands to scratch a grave,
 ' Stripping my nails to tear this pavement up'
 And bury me alive.

Alm. Heart-breaking horror!

Osm. Then Garcia shall lie panting on thy bosom,
 Luxurious, revelling amidst thy charms;

' And

‘ And thou per-force, must yield, and aid his transports;
 Hell! hell! have I not cause to rage and rave?
 What are all racks, and wheels, and whips to this?
 ‘ Are they not soothing softness, sinking ease,
 ‘ And wafting air to this?’ O my Almeria!
 What do the damn’d endure, but to despair,
 But knowing heav’n, to know it lost for ever?

Alm. O, I am struck, thy words are bolts of ice,
 Which shot into my breast now melt and chill me.

‘ I chatter, shake, and faint with thrilling fears,
 ‘ No, hold me not——O, let us not support,
 ‘ But sink each other, deeper yet, down, down,
 ‘ Where level’d low, no more we’ll lift our eyes,
 ‘ But prone, and dumb, rot the firm face of earth
 ‘ With rivers of incessant scalding rain.’

Enter Zara, Perez, and Selim.

Zara. Somewhat of weight to me requires his freedom.
 Dare you dispute the King’s command? Behold
 The Royal Signet.

Per. I obey; yet beg
 Your Majesty one moment to defer
 Your entering, till the princess is return’d
 From visiting the noble prisoner.

Zara. Ha!

What say’st thou?

Ofm. We are lost! undone! discover’d!
 ‘ Retire, my life, with speed——Alas! we’re seen;
 Speak of compassion, let her hear you speak
 Of interceding for me with the King;
 Say something quickly to conceal our loves,
 If possible——

Alm. ——I cannot speak.

Ofm. Let me

Conduct you forth, as not perceiving her,
 But till she’s gone; then bless me thus again.

Zara. Trembling and weeping as he leads her forth,
 Confusion in his face, and grief in hers!

‘Tis plain I’ve been abus’d——Death and destruction!

‘ How shall I search into this mystery?

‘ The bluest blast of pestilential air

‘ Strike,

Strike, damp, deaden her charms, and kill his eyes;'
Perdition catch 'em both, and ruin part 'em.

Osm. This charity to one unknown, and thus
[Aloud to Almeria as she goes out.]
Distress'd, Heav'n will repay: all thanks are poor.

[Exit Alma.]
Zara. Damn'd, damn'd dissembler! yet I will be calm,
Choke in my rage, and know the utmost depth
Of this deceiver—— You seem much surpriz'd.

Osm. At your return so soon and unexpected!
Zara. And so unwish'd, unwanted too it seems.
Confusion! Yet I will contain myself.
You're grown a favourite since last we parted:
Perhaps I'm saucy and intruding——

Osm. —— Madam!
Zara. I did not know the princess' favourite:
Your pardon, Sir—— mistake me not: you think
I'm angry: you're deceived. I came to set
You free; but shall return much better pleas'd,
To find you have an interest superior.

Osm. You do not come to mock my miseries?
Zara. I do.

Osm. I could at this time spare your mirth.
Zara. I know thou could'st; but I'm not often pleas'd,
And will indulge it now. What miseries?
Who would not be thus happily confin'd,
To be the care of weeping Majesty?
To have contending Queens, at dead of night,
Forake their down, to wake with wat'ry eyes,
And watch like tapers o'er your hour of rest.
O curse! I cannot hold——

Osm. Come, 'tis too much.

Zara. Villain!

Osm. How, Madam!

Zara. Thou shalt die.

Osm. I thank you.

Zara. Thou ly'st, for now I know for whom thou'dst
live.

Osm. Then you may know for whom I'd lie.

Zara. Hell! hell!

Yet

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Yet I'll be calm——Dark and unknown betrayer!
But now the dawn begins, and the slow hand
Of Fate is stretch'd to draw the veil, and leave
Thee bare, the naked mark of public view.

Osm. You may be still deceiv'd; 'tis in my pow'r——

“Chain'd as I am, to fly from all my wrongs,

“And free myself at once from misery,

“And you of me.

“Zara. Ha! sayst thou—But I'll prevent it.”

Who waits there? As you will answer it, look this slave

[To the guard.

Attempt no means to make himself away.
I've been deceiv'd. The public safety now
Requires he should be more confin'd, and none,
No, not the princess, suffer'd or to see,
Or speak with him: I'll quit you to thee King.
Vile and ingrate! too late thou shalt repent
The base injustice thou hast done my love;
Yes, thou shalt know, spite of thy past distress,
And all those ills which thou so long hast mourn'd,
Heav'n has no rage like love to hatred turn'd,
Nor hell a fury like a woman scorn'd.

ACT IV. SCENE, a Room of State.

Enter Zara and Selim.

Zara.

THOU hast already rack'd me with thy stay;
Therefore require me not to ask thee twice:
Reply at once to all. What is concluded?

Sel. Your accusation highly has incens'd
The King, and were alone enough to urge
The fate of Osmyn; but to that, fresh news
Has since arriv'd, of more revolted troops.
'Tis certain Heli too is fled, and with him
(Which breeds amazement and distraction) some
Who bore high offices of weight and trust.

Both

Both in the state and army. This confirms
The King in full belief of all you told him
Concerning Osmyn, and his correspondence
With them who first began the mutiny.
Wherefore a warrant for his death is sign'd;
And order given for public execution.

Zara. Ha! haste thee! fly, prevent his fate and mine;
Find out the King, tell him I have of weight
More than his crown t' impart ere Osmyn die.

Sel. It needs not, for the King will straight be here,
And as to your revenge, not his own int'rest,
Pretend to sacrifice the life of Osmyn.

Zara. What shall I say? Invent, contrive, advise
Somewhat to bind the King, and save his life
In whom I live. Spite of my rage and pride,
I am a Woman, and a Lover still.

O! 'tis more grief but to suppose his death,
Than still to meet the rigour of his scorn.

From my despair my anger had its source;
When he is dead, I must despair for ever.

For ever! that's despair——it was distrust
Before; distrust will ever be in love,
And anger in distrust; both short-liv'd pains!

But in despair, and ever-during death,
No term, no bound, but infinite of woe!

O torment but to think! what then to bear?

Not to be borne'——Devise the means to shun it,
Quick; or, by Heav'n, this dagger drinks thy blood.

Sel. My life is yours, nor wish I to preserve it,
But to serve you. I have already thought.

Zara. Forgive my rage; I know thy love and truth.
But say, what's to be done? or when, or how.

Shall I prevent or stop th' approaching danger?

Sel. You must still seem most resolute and fix'd
On Osmyn's death; too quick a change of mercy
Might breed suspicion of the cause. Advise

That execution may be done in private.

Zara. On what pretence?

Sel. Your own request's enough.

Both However, for a colour, tell him, you

Have

Have cause to fear his guards, may be corrupted,
 And some of them bought off, to Osmyn's interest,
 Who, at the place of execution, will
 Attempt to force his way for an escape;
 The state of things will countenance all suspicions.
 Then offer to the King to have him strangled
 In secret by your mutes: and get an order,
 That none but mutes may have admittance to him.
 I can no more, the King is here. Obtain
 This grant: I'll acquaint you with the rest. [Exit]

Enter King, Gonzalez, and Perez.

King. Bear to the dungeon those rebellious slaves,
 'Th' ignoble curs, that yelp to fill the cry,
 And spend their mouths in barking tyranny.
 But for their leaders, Sancho and Ramirez,
 Let 'em be led away to present death.
Perez, see it perform'd.

Gonz. Might I presume,
 Their execution better were deferr'd,
 'Till Osmyn die. Mean time we may learn more
 Of this conspiracy.

King. Then be it so.
 Stay, soldier; they shall suffer with the Moor.
 Are none return'd of those that follow'd Heli?

Gonz. None, Sir. Some papers have been since
 cover'd

In Rodorigo's house, who fled with him,
 Which seem to intimate, as if Alphonso
 Were still alive, and arming in Valentia:
 Which wears indeed this colour of a truth,
 They who have fled have that way bent their course.
 Of the same nature divers notes have been
 Dispers'd to amuse the people; whereupon
 Some ready of belief, have rais'd this rumour:
 That being sav'd upon the coast of Afric,
 He there disclos'd himself to Albucacim,
 And by a secret compact made with him,
 Open'd and urg'd the way to this invasion;
 While he himself, returning to Valentia,
 In private, undertook to raise this tumult.

Zara. Ha! hear'st thou that? Is Osmyn then Alphonso?

* O Heav'n! a thousand things occur at once

* To my remembrance now, that make it plain.

O certain death for him, as sure despair

For me, if it be known——If not, what hope

Have I? Yet 'twere the lowest baseness now,

To yield him up——No, I will conceal him

And try the force of yet more obligations.

Conſ. 'Tis not impossible. Yet it may be

That some imposture has usurp'd his name.

Your beauteous captive, *Zara*, can inform,

If such an one, so 'scaping, was receiv'd,

At any time in *Albucacim's* court.

King. Pardon, fair excellence; this long neglect:

An unforeseen, unwelcome hour of business,

Has thrust between us and our while of love;

But wearing now apace with ebbing sand,

Will quickly waste and give again the day.

Zara. You're too secure: the danger is more imminent

Than your high courage suffers you to see:

While Osmyn lives, you are not safe.

King. His doom

Is pass'd: if you revoke it not, he dies.

Zara. 'Tis well. By what I heard upon your entrance,

I find I can unfold what yet concerns

You more. One who did call himself Alphonso

Was cast upon my coast, as is reported,

And oft had private conference with the king;

To what effect I knew not then: but he,

Alphonso, secretly departed, just

About the time our arms embark'd for Spain.

What I know more is, that a triple league

Of strictest friendship was profess'd between

Alphonso, Heli, and the traitor Osmyn.

King. Public report has ratified in this.

Zara. And Osmyn's death requir'd of strong necessity.

King. Give order straight, that all the prisoners die.

Zara. Forbear a moment, somewhat more I have

Worthy

Zara

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Worthy your private ear, and this your minister.

King. Let all, except Gonzalez, leave the room.

[*Exit Perez, &c.*]

Zara. I am your captive, and you've us'd me nobly;
And in return of that, tho' otherwise
Your enemy, ' I have discovered Osmyn
' His private practice and conspiracy
' Against your state: and fully to discharge
' Myself of what I've undertaken, now
I think it fit to tell you, that your guards
Are tainted: some among 'em have resolv'd
To rescue Osmyn at the place of death.

King. Is treason then so near us as our guards!

Zara. Most certain; tho' my knowledge is not yet
So ripe, to point at the particular men.

King. What's to be done?

Zara. That too I will advise.

I have remaining in my train some mutes,
A present once from the Sultana Queen,
In the Grand Signior's court. These from their infancy
Are practis'd in the trade of death; and shall
(As there the custom is) in private strangle
Osmyn.

Gonz. My Lord, the Queen advises well.

King. What off'ring, or what recompence remains
In me, that can be worthy so great services?
To cast beneath your feet the crown you've sav'd,
Tho' on the head that wears it, were too little.

Zara. Of that hereafter; but, mean time, 'tis fit
You give strict charge, that none may be admitted
To see the pris'ner, but such mutes as I
Shall send.

King. Who waits there?

Enter Perez.

King. On your life take heed,
That only Zara's mutes, or such who bring
Her warrant, have admittance to the Moor.

Zara. They, and no other, not the Princess' self.

Per. Your Majesty shall be obey'd.

King. Retire.

[*Exit Perez.*
Gonz.]

Gonf. That interdiction so particular,
Pronounc'd with vehemence against the Princess,
Should have more meaning than appears barefac'd.
The King is blinded by his love, and heeds
It not——Your Majesty sure might have spar'd
The last restraint; you hardly can suspect
The Princess is confed'rate with the Moor.

Zara. I've heard her charity did once extend
So far to visit him, at his request.

Gonf. Ha!

King. How? she visit Osmyn! What? my daughter!

Sel. Madam, take heed; or you have ruin'd all.

[*Aside to Zara.*

Zara. And after did solicit you on his
Behalf——

King. Never. You have been misinform'd.

Zara. Indeed! then 'twas a whisper spread by some,
Who wish'd it so; a common art in courts.
I will retire, and instantly prepare
Instruction for my ministers of death.

[*Exeunt Zara and Selim.*

Gonf. There's somewhat yet of mystery in this:
Her words and actions are obscure and double,
Sometimes concur, and sometimes disagree:
I like it not.

King. What dost thou think, Gonfalez?
Are we not much indebted to this Fair-one?

Gonf. I am a little slow of credit, Sir,
In the sincerity of womens actions.
Methinks this lady's hatred to the Moor
Disquiets her too much; which makes it seem
As if she'd rather that she did not hate him.
I wish her mutes are meant to be employ'd
As she pretends—I doubt it now—Your guards
Corrupted! how? by whom? who told her so?
I'th' evening Osmyn was to die; at midnight
She begg'd the royal signet to release him;
I'th' morning he must die again; ere noon
Her mutes alone must strangle him, or he'll
Escape. This put together suits not well.

C

King.

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King. Yet that there's truth in what she has discover'd,
Is manifest from every circumstance.
This tumult, and the lords who fled with Heli,
Are confirmation——that Alphonso lives,
Agrees expressly too with her report.

Gonf. I grant it, Sir; and doubt not, but in rage
Of jealousy, she has discover'd what
She now repents. It may be I'm deceiv'd:
But why that needless caution of the Princess?
What if she had seen Osmyn? tho' 'twere strange;
But if she had, what was't to her? unless
She fear'd her stronger charms might cause the Moor's
Affection to revolt.

King. I thank thee, friend:
There's reason in thy doubt, and I am warn'd.
But think'st thou that my daughter saw this Moor?

Gonf. If Osmyn be, as Zara has related,
Alphonso's friend, 'tis not impossible
But she might wish on his account to see him.

King. Say'st thou! By Heav'n, thou hast rous'd a
thought,
That like a sudden earthquake shakes my frame.
Confusion! then my daughter's an accomplice,
And plots in private with this hellish Moor.

Gonf. That were too hard a thought——but see she
comes——
'Twere not amiss to question her a little,
And try howe'er, if I've divin'd aright.
If what I fear be true, she'll be concern'd
For Osmyn's death, as he's Alphonso's friend:
Urge that, to try if she'll solicit for him.

Enter Almeria and Leonora.

King. Your coming has prevented me, Almeria;
I had determin'd to have sent for you.
Let your attendant be dismiss'd; I have

[*Leonora retires.*
To talk with you. Come near; why dost thou shake?
What mean those swell'n and red fleck'd eyes, that look
As they had wept in blood, and worn the night
In waking anguish? Why this on the day

Which

Which was design'd to celebrate thy nuptials;
 But that the beams of light are to be stain'd
 With reeking gore from traitors on the rack?
 Wherefore I have deferr'd the marriage-rites,
 Nor shall the guilty horrors of this day
 Profane that Jubilee.

Alm. All days to me
 Henceforth are equal: this the day of death.
 To-morrow, and the next: and each that follows,
 Will undistinguish'd roll, and but prolong
 One hated line of more extended woe.

King. Whence is thy grief? Give me to know the
 cause?

And look thou answer me with truth? for know
 I am not unacquainted with thy falsehood.

Why art thou mute? base and degen'rate maid?

Gonf. Dear Madam, speak, or you'll incense the King.

Alm. What is't to speak? or wherefore shou'd I speak?
 What mean these tears, but grief unutterable?

King. They are the dumb confessions of thy guilty
 mind:

They mean thy guilt: and say thou wert confed'rate
 With damn'd conspirators to take my life.

O impious parricide! how can'st thou speak?

Alm. O Earth, behold, I kneel upon thy bosom,
 And bend my flowing eyes, to stream upon
 Thy face, imploring thee that thou wilt yield!
 Open thy bowels of compassion, take
 Into thy womb the last and most forlorn
 Of all thy race! Hear me, thou common Parent!

———I have no parent else—be thou a Mother,
 And step between me and the curse of him,
 Who was—who was—but is no more a Father,
 But brands my innocence with horrid crimes,
 And for the tender names of Child and Daughter,
 Now calls me a Murderer and Parricide.

King. Rise, I command thee—and, if thou would'st
 Acquit thyself of those detested names,
 Swear thou hast never seen that foreign dog,
 Now doom'd to die, that most accursed Osmyn.

Alm. Never, but as with innocence I might,
And free of all bad purposes : so Heav'n's
My witness.

King. Vile equivocating wretch !
With innocence ? O patience ! hear—she owns it !
Confesses it ! by Heav'n, I'll have him rack'd,
Torn, mangled, flay'd, impal'd——all pains and tor-
tures

That wit of man and dire revenge can think,
Shall he, accumulated, under-bear.

Alm. Oh, I am lost——there Fate begins to wound.

King. Hear me, then, if thou can't reply : know,
traitrefs,

I'm not to learn that curs'd Alphonso lives :
Nor am I ignorant what Osmyn is——

Alm. Then all is ended, and we both must die :
Since thou'rt reveal'd, alone thou shalt not die :
And yet alone would I have dy'd, Heav'n knows,
Repeated deaths, rather than have reveal'd thee.

• Yes, all my father's wounding wrath, tho' each
• Reproach cuts deeper than the keenest sword,
• And cleaves my heart, I would have born it all,
• Nay, all the pains that are prepar'd for thee :
• To the remorseless rack I would have giv'n
• This weak and tender flesh to have been bruis'd
• And torn, rather than have reveal'd thy being.'

King. Hell ! Hell ! do I hear this, and yet endure !
What darst thou to my face avow thy guilt ?
Hence, ere I curse—fly my just rage with speed ;
Lest I forget us both, and spurn thee from me.

Alm. And yet a Father ? think I am your Child !
Turn not your eyes away—look on me kneeling !
Now curse me if you can, now spurn me off.
Did ever father curse his kneeling child ?

Never ; for always blessings crown that posture.
• Nature inclines, and half-way meets that duty,
• Stooping to raise from earth the filial reverence ;
• For bended knees returning folding arms,
• With pray'rs, and blessings, and paternal love.'
O hear me then, thus crawling on the earth——

King.

King. Be thou advis'd, and let me go, while yet
The light impresson, thou hast made, remains.

Alm. No, never will I rise, nor loose this hold,
'Till you are mov'd, and grant that he may live.

King. Ha! who may live? take heed, no more of that;
For on my soul he dies, tho' thou and I,
And all shou'd follow to partake his doom.
Away, off, let me go—Call her attendants.

[*Leonora and Women return.*]

Alm. Drag me, harrow the earth with my bare bosom,
I'll not go till you have spar'd my husband.

King. Ha! 'what sayest thou?' Husband! 'Husband!
'damnation!

'What husband!' which? who?

Alm. He, he is my Husband.

King. 'Poison and daggers! who?

Alm. O—— [Faints.

'Gonf. Help, support her.'

Alm. Let me go, let me fall, sink deep—I'll dig,
I'll dig a grave, and tear up Death; I will;

'I'll scrape tili I collect his rotten bones,

'And cloath their nakedness with my own flesh;'

Yes, I will strip off life, and we will change:

I will be Death; then, tho' you kill my husband,

He shall be mine still, and for ever mine.

King. What husband? whom dost thou mean?

Gonf. She raves!

Alm. O that I did! Osmyn, He is my husband.

King. Osmyn!

Alm. Not Osmyn, but Alphonso is my dear
And wedded husband——Heav'n, and air, and seas,
Ye winds and waves, I call ye all to witness!

King. Wilder than winds or waves thyself dost rave.
Shou'd I hear more, I too shou'd catch thy madness.

'Yet somewhat she must mean of dire import,

'Which I'll not hear, till I am more at peace.'

Watch her returning sense, and bring me word:

And look that she attempt not on her life. [Exit King.

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Alm. O stay, yet stay! hear me, I am not mad!
I wou'd to heav'n I were——He's gone?

Gonf. Have comfort.

Alm. Curs'd be that tongue that bids me be of comfort!

Curs'd my own tongue, that cou'd not move his pity!
Curs'd these weak hands, that could not hold him here!
For he is gone to doom Alphonso's death.

Gonf. Your too excessive grief works on your fancy,
And deludes your sense. Alphonso, if living,
Is far from hence, beyond your father's pow'r.

Alm. Hence, thou detested, ill-tim'd flatterer!
Source of my woes! thou and thy race be curs'd!
But doubly thou, who couldst alone have policy
And fraud, to find the fatal secret out,
And know that Osmyn was Alphonso!

Gonf. Ha!

Alm. Why dost thou start? what dost thou see or hear?
Is it the doleful bell, tolling for death?
Or dying groans from my Alphonso's breast?
See, see! look yonder, where a grizzled, pale,
And ghastly head glares by, all smear'd with blood,
Gasping as it wou'd speak! and after, see!
Behold a damp, dead hand has dropp'd a dagger:
I'll catch it—Hark! a voice cries *Murder!* ah!
My father's voice! hollow it sounds, and calls
Me from the tomb—I'll follow it; for there
I shall again behold my dear Alphonso.

[*Exeunt Alm. and Leo.*

Gonsalez alone.

She's greatly griev'd: nor am I less surpriz'd.
Osmyn Alphonso! no; she over-rates
My policy: I ne'er suspected it;
Nor now had known it, but from her mistake.
Her husband too! ha! where is Garcia then?
And where the crown that shou'd descend on him,
To grace the line of my posterity?
Hold, let me think——if I should tell the King——
Things come to this extremity; his daughter

Wedded

Wedded already——what if he shou'd yield?
 Knowing no remedy for what is past;
 And urg'd by Nature pleading for his child,
 With which he seems to be already shaken;
 And tho' I know he hates beyond the grave
 Anselmo's race; yet if—that If concludes me:
 To doubt, when I may be assur'd, is folly.
 But how prevent the captive queen, who means
 To set him free? Ay, now 'tis plain: O well
 Invented tale! he was Alphonso's friend.
 This subtle woman will amuse the King,
 If I delay——'twill do——or better so,
 One to my wish. Alonzo, thou art welcome!

Enter Alonzo.

Alon. The King expects your lordship.

Gonf. 'Tis no matter:

I'm not i' the way at present, good Alonzo.

Alon. If't please your lordship, I'll return, and say
 I have not seen you.

Gonf. Do, my best Alonzo.

Yet stay, I would——but go; anon will serve——
 Yet I have that requires thy speedy help.

I think thou wou'dst not stop to do me service.

Alon. I am your creature.

Gonf. Say thou art my friend.

I've seen thy sword do noble execution.

Alon. All that it can your lordship shall command.

Gonf. Thanks; and I take thee at thy word. Thou'lt seen,
 Among the followers of the captive queen,
 Dumb men, who make their meaning known by signs.

Alon. I have, my lord.

Gonf. Couldst thou procure, with speed
 And privacy, the wearing garb of one
 Of those, tho' purchas'd by his death, I'd give
 Thee such reward, as shou'd exceed thy wish.

Alon. Conclude it done. Where shall I wait your lord-
 ship?

Gonf. At my apartment. Use thy utmost diligence;
 And say I've not been seen—haste, good Alonzo.

[Exit Alonzo.

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So, this can hardly fail. Alphonso slain,
The greatest obstacle is then remov'd.
Almeria widow'd, yet again may wed;
And I yet fix the crown on Garcia's head.

[Exit.

ACT V. SCENE *a Room of State.*

King, Perez, and Alonzo.

King.

NOT to be found? In an ill hour he's absent.
None, say you? none? what, not the fav'rite
Eunuch?

Nor she herself, nor any of her mutes,
Have yet requir'd admittance?

Per. None, my lord.

King. Is Osymn so dispos'd as I commanded?

Per. Fast-bound in double chains, and at full length
He lies supine on earth: with as much ease
She might remove the centre of this earth,
As loose the rivets of his bonds.

King. 'Tis well.

[*A mute appears, and, seeing the King, retires.*

Ha! stop, and seize that mute; Alonzo, follow him.

Ent'ring he met my eyes, and started back

Frighted, and fumbling one hand in his bosom,

As to conceal th' importance of his errand.

[*Alonzo follows him, and returns with a paper.*

Alon. A bloody proof of obstinate fidelity!

King. What dost thou mean?

Alon. Soon as I seiz'd the man,

He snatch'd from out his bosom this—and strove

With rash and greedy haste at once to cram

The morsel down his throat. I caught his arm,

And hardly wrench'd his hand to wring it from him;

Which done, he drew a poniard from his side,

And on the instant plung'd it in his breast.

King. Remove the body thence ere Zara see it.

Alon. I'll be so bold to borrow his attire;

'Twill quit me from my promise to Gonzalez.

[Exit Alonzo.

Per.

* *Per.* Whate'er it is, the King's complexion turns.'

King. How's this? my mortal foe beneath my roof!

[*Having read the Letter.*]

O give me patience, all ye powers! no, rather

Give me new Rage, implacable Revenge,

And trebled Fury——Ha! who's there?

Perez. My lord.

King. Hence, slave! how dar'st thou bide, to watch and
pry

Into how poor a thing a King descends?

How like thyself, when Passion treads him down?

Ha! stir not, on thy life! for thou wer't fix'd

And planted here to see me gorge this bait,

And lash against the hook——By Heav'n, you're all

Rank traitors: thou art with the rest combin'd:

Thou knew'st that Osmyn was Alphonso, knew'st

My daughter privately with him conferr'd;

And wert the Spy and Pander to their meeting.

Per. By all that's holy, I'm amaz'd——

King. Thou ly'st.

Thou art accomplice too with Zara: here,

Where she sets down——*Still will I sit thee free*—— [Reading.

That somewhere is repeated——*I have power*

O'er them that are thy guards——Mark that, thou traitor.

Per. It was your Majesty's command, I should
Obey her order. ——

King. [Reading.]——*And still will I set*

Thee free, Alphonso——Hell! curs'd, curs'd Alphonso

False and perfidious Zara! Strumpet daughter!

Away, be gone, thou feeble boy, fond Love

All Nature, Softness, Pity, and Compassion,

This hour I throw ye off, and entertain

Fell Hate within my breast, Revenge, and Gall.

By Heav'n, I'll meet, and counterwork this treachery.

Hark thee, villain, traitor——answer me, slave!

Per. My service has not merited those titles.

King. Dar'st thou reply? 'Take that'——thy service!
thine! [Strikes him.

What's thy whole life, thy soul, thy all, to my

One moment's ease? Hear my command; and look

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That thou obey, or horror on thy head :
Drench me thy dagger in Alphonso's heart.
Why dost thou start? Resolve, or——

Per. Sir, I will.

King. 'Tis well—that when she comes to set him free,
His teeth may grin, and mock at her remorse.

[*Perez going.*

—Stay thee—I've farther thought—I'll add to this,
And give her eyes yet greater disappointment :
When thou hast ended him, bring me his robe ;
And let the cell where she'll expect to see him
Be darken'd, so as to amuse the sight.
I'll be conducted thither——mark me well——
'There with his turbant, and his robe array'd,
And laid along, as he now lies, supine,
I shall convict her, to her face, of falsehood.
When for Alphonso's she shall take my hand,
And breathe her sighs upon my lips for his ;
Sudden I'll start, and dash her with her guilt.
But see, she comes ! I'll shun th' encounter ; thou
Follow me, and give heed to my direction.

[*Exeunt.*

Enter Zara and Selim.

Zara. ' The mute not yet return'd !' ha, 'twas the King !
The King that pass'd hence ! frowning he went :
' His eyes like meteors roll'd, then darted down
' Their red and angry beams ; as if his sight
' Wou'd, like the raging Dog-star, scorch the earth
' And kindle ruin in its course :' Dost think
He saw me ?

Sel. Yes ; but then, as if he thought
His eyes had err'd, he hastily recall'd
'Th' imperfect look, and sternly turn'd away.

Zara. Shun me when seen ! I fear thou hast undone me.
' Thy shallow artifice begets suspicion,
' And, like a cobweb veil, but thinly shades
' The face of thy design ; alone disguising
' What shou'd have ne'er been seen ; imperfect Mischief !
' Thou, like the adder, venomous and deaf,
' Hast stung the traveller ; and, after, hear'st
' Not his pursuing voice ; e'en when thou think'st

' To

- To hide, the rustling leaves and bended grass
- Confess, and point the path which thou hast crept.
- O fate of fools! officious in contriving;
- In executing, puzzled, lame, and lost."

Sel. Avert it, Heav'n! that you should ever suffer
For my defect! or that the means which I
Devis'd to serve, should ruin your design!
Prescience is Heav'n's alone, not giv'n to man.

If I have fail'd in what, as being Man,
I needs must fail, impute not as a crime
My Nature's want, but punish Nature in me;
I plead not for a pardon, and to live,
But to be punish'd, and forgiven. Here, strike!
I bare my breast to meet your just revenge!

Zara. I have not leisure now to take so poor
A forfeit as thy life! somewhat of high
And more important fate requires my thought!
• When I've concluded on myself, if I
• Think fit, I'll leave thee my command to die!"
Regard me well, and dare not to reply
To what I give in charge; for I'm resolv'd!
Give order, that the two remaining mutes
Attend me instantly, with each a bowl
Of such ingredients mix'd, as will with speed
Benumb the living faculties, and give
Most easy and inevitable death.
Yes, Osmyn, yes; be Osmyn or Alphonso,
I'll give thee freedom, if thou dar'st be free:
Such liberty, as I embrace myself,
Thou shalt partake. Since Fates no more afford,
I can but die with thee to keep my word. [Exit.

S C E N E opening shews the Prison.

Enter Gonfalez, disguised like a Mute, with a dagger.

Gonf. Nor centinel, nor guard! the doors unbarr'd!
And all as still, as at the noon of night!
Sure Death already has been busy here.
'There lies my way! that door too is unlock'd.

[Looking in.

Ha! sure he sleeps—all's dark within, save what

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A lamp, that feebly lifts a sickly flame,
By fits reveals—his face seems turn'd, to favour
Th' attempt; I'll steal and do it unperceiv'd.
What noise! somebody coming? 't, Alonzo?
Nobody. Sure he'll wait without—I would
'T were done—I'll crawl, and fling him to the heart;
Then cast my skin, and leave it there to answer it; [*Goes in.*
Enter Garcia and Alonzo.

Gar. Where? where, Alonzo? where's my father? where
The King? confusion? all is on the rout!
All's lost! all ruin'd by surprise and treachery!
Where, where is he? Why dost thou mislead me?

Alon. My Lord, he enter'd but a moment since,
And could not pass me unperceiv'd—What ho!
My Lord, my Lord, what ho! my Lord Gonfalez!

Enter Gonfalez bloody.

Gonf. Perdition choke your clamours!—whence this
rudeness!

Garcia!

Gar. Perdition, Slavery, and Death,
Are enter'ing now our doors! Where is the King?
What means this blood? and why this face of horror?

Gonf. No matter! give me first to know the cause
Of these your rash and ill-timed exclamations!

Gar. The eastern gate is to the foe betray'd!
Who, but for heaps of slain that choke the passage,
Had enter'd long ere now, and borne down all
Before 'em, to the palace walls! Unless
The King in person animate our men,
Granada's lost! and to confirm this fear,
The traitor Perez, and the Captive Moor,
Are through a postern fled, and join the foe!

Gonf. Would all were false as that! for whom you call
The Moor is dead. That Osmyn was Alphonso;
In whose heart's blood this poniard yet is warm.

Gar. Impossible! for Osmyn was, while flying,
Pronounc'd aloud by Perez for Alphonso!

Gonf. Enter that chamber, and convince your eyes,
How much report has wrong'd your easy faith. [*Garcia goes in.*

Alon. My Lord, for certain truth Perez is fled;

And

And has declar'd, the cause of his revolt
Was to revenge a blow the King had giv'n him.

Gar. [*Returning.*] Ruin and Horror! O heart-wounding
fight!

Gonf. What says my son? what ruin? ha! what horror!

Gar. Blasted my eyes, and speechless be my tongue,
Rather than or to see, or to relate
This deed!—O dire mistake! O fatal blow!
The King——

Gonf. and Aln. The King!

Gar. Dead, welt'ring, drown'd in blood!
See! see! attir'd like Osmyn, where he lies. [*They look in.*
O whence, or how, or wherefore was this done?
But what imports the manner of the cause?
Nothing remains to do, or to require,
But that we all should turn our swords against
Ourselves, and expiate, with our own, his blood.

Gonf. O wretch! O curs'd and rash deluded fool!
On me, on me, turn your avenging swords!
I, who have spilt my royal master's blood,
Should make atonement by a death as horrid,
And fall beneath the hand of my own son.

Gar. Ha! what! atone this murder with a greater!
The horror of that thought has damp'd my rage.
' The Earth already groans to bear this deed;
' Oppress her not, nor think to stain her face
' With more unnatural blood. Murder my Father!
' Better with this to rip up my own bowels,
' And bathe it to the hilt, in far less damnable
' Self-murder.'

Gonf. O my son! from the blind dotage
Of a father's fondness these ills arose:
For thee I've been ambitious, base, and bloody;
For thee I've plung'd into this sea of sin;
Stemming the tide with only one weak hand,
While t'other bore the crown, (to wreath thy brow)
Whose weight has sunk me ere I reach'd the shore.

Gar. Fatal ambition! Hark! the Foe is enter'd! [*Shout.*
The shrillness of that shout speaks 'em at hand.
' We have no time to search into the cause

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- Of this surprising and most fatal error.
- What's to be done? the King's death known, would strike
- The few remaining soldiers with despair,
- And make 'em yield to mercy of the Conqueror.'

Alon. My Lord, I've thought how to conceal the body:
Require me not to tell the means, 'till done,
Left you forbid what then you may approve. [*Goes in. Shout.*]

Gonf. They shout again! Whate'er he means to do,
'Twere fit the soldiers were amus'd with hopes;
And in the mean time fed with expectation
'To see the King in person at their head.

Gar. Were it a truth, I fear 'tis now too late:
But I'll omit no care, nor haste; and try
Or to repel their force, or bravely die. [*Exit.*]

Enter Alonzo.

Gonf. What hast thou done, Alonzo?

Alon. Such a deed
As but an hour ago I'd not have done,
Though for the crown of universal empire.
But what are Kings, reduc'd to common clay?
Or who can wound the dead?—I've from the body
Sever'd the head, and in an obscure corner
Dispos'd it, muffled in the Mute's attire,
Leaving to view of them who enter next,
Alone the undistinguishable trunk;
Which may be still mistaken by the guards
For Osmyn, if in seeking for the King
They chance to find it.

Gonf. 'Twas an act of horror,
And of a piece with this day's dire misdeeds!
But 'tis no time to ponder or repent.
Haste thee, Alonzo, haste thee hence with speed,
'To aid my son! I'll follow with the last
Reserve, to reinforce his arms: at least,
I shall make good and shelter his retreat. [*Exeunt severally.*]

*Enter Zara, followed by Selim, and two Mutes bearing
the Bowls*

Zara Silence and solitude are every where!
Thro' all the gloomy ways and iron doors
That hither lead, nor human face nor voice

Is seen or heard. ' A dreadful din was wont
 ' To grate the sense, when enter'd here, from groans
 ' And howls of slaves condemn'd; from clink of chains,
 ' And crash of rusty bars and creaking hinges:
 ' And ever and anon the sight was dash'd
 ' With frightful faces, and the meagre looks
 ' Of grim and ghastly executioners
 ' Yet more this stillness terrifies my soul,
 ' Than did that scene of complicated horrors.
 ' It may be that the cause of this my errand
 ' And purpose, being chang'd from life to death,
 ' Has also wrought this chilling change of temper.
 ' Or does my heart bode more? What can it more
 ' Than death?'

Let 'em set down the bowls, and warn Alphonso
 That I am here—so. You, return and find [*Mutes going in.*
 The King; tell him, what he requir'd, I've done,
 And wait his coming to approve the deed. [*Exit Selim.*

Enter Mutes.

Zara. What have you seen? Ha! wherefore stare you
 thus [*The Mutes return and look affrighted.*
 With haggard eyes? why are your arms across?
 Your heavy and desponding heads hung down?
 Why is't you more than speak in these sad signs?
 Give me more ample knowledge of this mourning.

[*They go to the scene, which opening, she perceives the body.*

Ha! prostrate! bloody! headless! O—I'm lost!
 O Osmyn! O Alphonso! Cruel Fate!
 Cruel, cruel, O more than killing object!
 I came prepar'd to die, and see thee die—
 Nay, came prepar'd myself to give thee death—
 But cannot bear to find thee thus, my Osmyn—
 O this accurs'd, this base, this treach'rous King!

Enter Selim.

Selim. I've sought in vain; for no where can the King
 Be found——

Zara. Get thee to hell, and seek him there! [*Stabs him.*
 His hellish rage had wanted means to act,
 But for thy fatal and pernicious counsel.

Sel.

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Sel. You thought it better then — but I'm rewarded.
The Mute you sent, by some mischance was seen,
And forc'd to yield your letter with his life:
I found the dead and bloody body strip'd —
My tongue falters, and my voice fails — I sink —
Drink not the poison — for Alphonso is — [Dies.

Zara. As thou art now — and I shall quickly be.
'Tis not that he is dead; for 'twas decreed
We both should die. Nor is't that I survive;
I have a certain remedy for that.
But oh! he dy'd unknowing in my heart.
He knew I lov'd, But knew not to what height.
Nor that I meant to fall before his eyes,
A martyr and a victim to my vows:
Insensible of this last proof he's gone:
' Yet Fate can rob his mortal part alone
' Of sense: his soul still sees, and knows each purpose,
' And fix'd event of my persisting faith.'
Then wherefore do I pause? give me the bowl.

[A Mute kneels and gives one of the bowls.

Hover a moment yet, thou gentle spirit,
Soul of my love, and I will wait thy flight!
This to our mutual bliss, when join'd above. [Drinks.
O friendly draught! already in my heart!
Cold, cold! my veins are icicles and frost.
I'll creep into his bosom, lay me there;
Cover us close — or I shall chill his breast,
And fright him from my arms — See! see! he slides
Still farther from me! look, he hides his face!
I cannot feel it — quite beyond my reach!
O now he's gone, and all is dark — [Dies.

[The Mutes kneel and mourn over her.

Enter Almeria and Leonora.

Alm. O let me seek him in this horid cell!
For in the tomb, or prison, I alone
Must hope to find him.

Leon. Heavens! what dismal scene
Of death is this! the eunuch Selim slain!

Alm. Shew me! for I am come in search of Death,
But want a guide, for tears have dimm'd my sight.

Leon.

Leon. Alas, a little farther, and behold
 Zara all pale and dead! two frightful men,
 Who seem the murderers, kneel weeping by;
 Feeling remorse too late for what they've done.
 But O forbear—lift up your eyes no more,
 But haste away, fly from this fatal place,
 Where miseries are multiplied! return,
 Return, and look not on, for there's a dagger
 Ready to stab the sight, and make your eyes
 Rain blood——

Alm. O I foreknow, foresee that object!
 Is it at last then so! Is he then dead!
 ' What dead at last, quite, quite for ever dead!
 ' There, there, I see him! there he lies, the blood
 ' Yet bubbling from his wounds—O more than savage!
 ' Had they or hearts or eyes that did this deed!
 ' Could eyes endure to guide such cruel hands!
 ' Are not my eyes guilty alike with theirs,
 ' That thus can gaze, and yet not turn to stone!'
 ——I do not weep! the springs of tears are dry'd.
 And of a sudden I am calm, as if
 All things were well! and yet my husband's murder'd!
 Yes, yes, I know to mourn! I'll sluice this heart,
 The source of woe, and let the torrent loose!
 ——Those men have left to weep! they look on me!
 I hope they murder all on whom they look!
 Behold me well! your bloody hands have err'd,
 And wrongfully have slain those innocents:
 I am the sacrifice design'd to bleed!
 And come prepar'd to yield my throat!——they shake
 Their heads in sign of grief and innocence!

[*They point at the bowl on the ground.*]

And point! what mean they! Ha! a cup! O well
 I understand what medicine has been here.
 O noble thirst! yet greedy to drink all——
 Oh for another draught of death!——' what mean they!

[*They point at the other cup.*]

' Ha! point again! 'tis there, and full, I hope!
 Thanks to the lib'ral hand that fill'd thee thus!
 I'll drink my glad acknowledgement——

Leon.

66 THE MOURNING BRIDE.

Leon. O hold
For Mercy's sake! upon my knee I beg——
Alm. With thee the kneeling World shou'd beg in vain.
Seest thou not there! behold who prostrate lies,
And pleads against thee! who shall then prevail?
Yet I will take a cold and parting leave
From his pale lips; I'll kiss him ere I drink,
Lest the rank juice should blister on my mouth,
And stain the colour of my last adieu.
Horror! a headless trunk! nor lips nor face,

[*Coming near the body, starts and lets fall the cup.*
But spouting veins, and mangled flesh! Oh! oh!
Enter Alphonso, Heli, Perez, *with* Garcia Prisoner, Guards,
and Attendants.

Alph. Away, stand off! where is she! let me fly,
Save her from death, and snatch her to my heart!

Alm. Oh!

Alph. Forbear! my arms alone shall hold her up,
Warm her to life, and wake her into gladness!
• O let me talk to thy reviving sense
• The words of joy and peace; warm thy cold beauties
• With the new-flushing ardour of my cheek;
• Into thy lips pour the soft trickling balm
• Of cordial sighs, and re-inspire thy bosom
• With the breath of love. Shine, awake, Almeria!
Give a new birth to thy long-shaded eyes.
Then double on the day reflected light.

Alm. Where am I! Heav'n! what does this dream
intend!

Alph. O may'st thou never dream of less delight,
Nor ever wake to less substantial joys!

Alm. Given me again from death! O all ye Pow'rs,
Confirm this miracle! can I believe
My sight 'against my sight? and shall I trust
• That sense, which, in one instant, shews him dead
• And living? yes, I will! I have been abus'd
With apparitions and affrighting phantoms:
This is my lord, my life, my only husband!
I have him now, and we no more will part!
My father too shall have compassion——

Alph.

Alph. O my heart's comfort! 'tis not given to this
Frail life, to be intirely bless'd. E'en now,
In this extremest joy my soul can taste,
Yet I am dafh'd to think that thou must weep?
Thy father fe'l, where he design'd my death.
Gonsalez and Alonzo, both of wounds
Expiring, have with their last breath confes'd
The just decrees of Heav'n, which on themselves
Has turn'd their own most bloody purposes.
Nay, I must grant, 'tis fit you should be thus——

[She weeps.]

' Let 'em remove the body from her sight.'

Ill-fated Zara! Ha! a cup! alas!

Thy error then is plain! but I were flint

Not to o'erflow in tribute to thy memory.

O Garcia!——

Whose virtue has renounc'd thy father's crimes,

Seest thou, how just the hand of Heav'n has been!

Let us, who through our innocence survive,

Still in the paths of honour persevere,

And not from past or present ills despair:

For blessings ever wait on virtuous deeds;

And though a late, a sure reward succeeds.

[Exeunt omnes.]

EPILOGUE.

THE Tragedy thus done, I am, you know,
 No more a Princess, but in statu quo;
 And now as unconcern'd this mourning wear,
 As if indeed a widow, or an heir.
 I've leisure, now, to mark your sev'ral faces,
 And know each critic by his sour grimaces.
 To poison plays, I see them where they sit,
 Scatter'd, like ratbane, up and down the Pit:
 While others watch, like parish searchers, hir'd
 To tell of what disease the Play expir'd.
 O with what joy they run, to spread the news
 Of a damn'd Poet, and departed Muse!
 But if he 'scape, with what regret they're seiz'd!
 And how they're disappointed, when they're pleas'd
 Critics to plays for the same end resort,
 That surgeons wait on trials in a court:
 For innocence condemn'd they've no respect,
 Provided they've a body to dissect.
 As Suffex men, that dwell upon the shore,
 Look out when storms arise, and billows roar,
 Devoutly praying, with uplifted hands,
 That some well-laden ship may strike the sands;
 To whose rich cargo they may make pretence,
 And fatten on the spoils of Providence:
 So Critics throng to see a new Play split,
 And thrive and prosper on the wrecks of wit.
 Small hope our Poet from these prospects draws;
 And therefore to the Fair commends his cause.
 Your tender hearts to mercy are inclin'd,
 With whom, he hopes, this play will favour find,
 Which was an off'ring to the sex design'd.



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